Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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POLL RESULTS

After Friday's hearing, do you support Kilili's HR 1466 to grant status to certain groups of people in the CNMI?

Yes-**96**

No-**104**

No Opinion-**14**

Sunday, July 24, 2011

INSIDE

Tying the Knot

Midnight vows make New York the largest gay-marriage state.

NATION...Page 16

Island Massacre

Norway police arrive at an island massacre 90 minutes after a gunman first opened fire.

WORLD...Page 18

Winehouse, 27

Troubled diva Amy Winehouse is found dead at 27.

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Varied proposals floated to help CHC deal with crisis. PAGE 2
Pension Software among Fund's unresolved findings. PAGE 5

OIA INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT:

Ada's contract may have violated rules

» May have also broken CNMI ethics rules

MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Ada

An investigative report from the Office of the Inspector General of the U.S. Department of the Interior found that former Commerce secretary Michael Ada's sole-source contract to manage CNMI American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds may have violated CNMI Procurement and Supply regulations and may have broken several CNMI ethics rules.

In a document made available online by Interior in its website on Saturday, the IG report said the former ARRA state lead's "contract may have violated CNMI Procurement and Supply Regulations, Part 700 'Ethics in Public Contracting.'"

The IG report said, however, that the U.S. Attorney's Office of the District of

See **ADA** on **Page 4**

'Another leak from OPA; another attack from Killili'

Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham lashed out yesterday against Public Auditor Mike Pai and CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, saying both "will never miss an opportunity, even without merit, to attack me and the governor."

Buckingham

Buckingham was particularly incensed by Sablan's statement relating to the Office of the Inspector General report that the people of the CNMI "can have little confidence that the Office of the Attorney General will press charges or seek recovery of funds."

Buckingham said he was limited by law as to his comment because he received a report labeled "privileged and confidential" and limited to "official use."

He said he would confirm that he knew late last week that the Office of the Public Auditor had issued a confidential document to the governor, lieutenant governor, president of the Senate, speaker of the House, and attorney general.

See **OPA** on **Page 4**

MARKETING THE MARIANAS MVA

Popular Russian television host Mikhail Shirvindt, left, describes Saipan's colorful, blooming flame trees during the filming of Russian television show Hochu Znat' in the Northern Mariana Islands in July 2011. The show will feature Saipan, Tinian and Rota in several segments over a period of a year beginning in September 2011 and will be seen by over 250-million viewers worldwide. The FAM(iliarization) tour, supported by the Marianas Visitors Authority, will bring the Northern Marianas an estimated $45-million in ad exposure.

US Senate to vote today on Manglona's confirmation

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The full U.S. Senate will vote on Monday afternoon, July 25, Washington D.C. time, the final step in the confirmation process of Judge Ramona Villagomez Manglona to be the judge for the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands.

Manglona

According to the U.S. Senate's executive calendar, the Senate on Monday at 4:30pm will proceed to executive session to consider the nominations of Manglona to be the judge for the District Court for the NMI, and Paul A. Engelmayer of New York to be the U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

There will be an hour allotted for debate equally divided in the usual form.

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Local

Varied proposals floated to help CHC deal with crisis

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

From lawmakers donating a portion of their discretionary funding and making sure stamps are available to mail collection notices, to guaranteeing that the transition to a non-profit healthcare corporation pushes through—these were just some of suggestion offered by House and Senate members during Friday's meeting to address the emergency declaration at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Among the proposals, Rep. Janet Maratita's (Ind-Saipan) suggestion for lawmakers to donate part of their allotments to raise the $500,000 CHC immediately needs to pay vendors of critical supplies and services stood out.

"My solution is to challenge all the House members, all of the Senate members to contribute to this $500,000 to assist. Instead of marching [to the Governor's Office], we all have a responsibility to assist our people and our Commonwealth. Let the record reflect that I authorized the secretary of Finance to check how much I have left in my allotment and see if it can be applied to this $500,000," she said at the tailend of the meeting called by Senate Standing Committee on Health and Welfare chair Sen. Ralph DLG. Torres (R-Saipan) at the Senate chamber.

Senate Floor Leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan) pointed out, though, that lawmakers' annual allotments are actually already tapped out this late in the fiscal year.

"I believe all the members don't have the money in their accounts. I know I don't have the money but if I have the money [I would be glad to help]. As long as I have salaries for my staff, I'm not worried about travel expenses [because I don't really travel] but the thing is Janet also doesn't have anymore money on her account, too," he said.

This was seconded by Senate President Paul Manglona, who said "I know that I have no funding left as far as uncommitted funding but I can look at it and whatever funding I have I will give."

Transition is key

Manglona, meanwhile, continued to champion Public Law 16-51, which called for mandating the transition of the Department of Public Health into the new Commonwealth Health Corp. by Oct. 1, 2011.

"Not only do we need to look into this short-term emergency we also have to take care of the longer term. It's for that reason that we need to implement Public Law 16-51. That's the long-term solution because you will run the hospital like an independent corporation. They get to collect whatever account receivables they collect and they get to keep it. So they don't have to work through the government bureaucracy just to have money for pharmaceutical needs or for lab supplies," said the Senate president.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said it is indeed the Fitial administration's hope that the interim procedures will be able to stabilize vendor obligations to CHC as it seeks to transition into a corporation.

"By then, we hope that the corporation will be able to improve and increase its collection efforts of outstanding hospital charges," he said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Acting health secretary Esther Muña said the transition to a corporation and giving $5 million as seed money for post-CHC operations is a good start.

"They are talking about $5 million in seed money. Is it adequate? Probably not for the entire fiscal year but it will give us the tools. We can make decisions, we can hire staff, and we can determine what is more important to pay. We know that if we have the money we know how to use the resources. Giving us that decision-making without having to deal with Finance is important. Again it's about the cash. Having the $5 million, it will now only be a question of how best to manage it," she said.

$1K worth of stamps to get $1M in collectibles

Sen. Jovita M. Taimanao (Ind-Saipan), meanwhile, scored CHC for failing to address the crisis administratively, saying that Muña and her staff should better monitor "collection receivable versus expenditures" to help avoid the current crisis.

House Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) seconded Taimano's call and said CHC should begin prioritizing expenses for what is really critical.

One such priority that CHC failed to address is acquiring $1,000 worth of stamps needed to mail out billings that could net the hospital as much as $1 million in collectibles.

"I cannot understand why CHC can't come up with $1,000 for stamps to send billings to collect $1 million," asked Manglona.

Reyes chimed in, "Surely, surely $1,000 can be found. It's a matter of administrators making priorities."

In CHC's defense, Muña said, "When you don't have the cash even the $1,000 isn't there." Muña said she would "probably be crucified" for mentioning the $1,000 worth of stamps during the meeting.

Responding to suggestions from Taimanao and Ogumoro that CHC appears to lack plans in prioritizing its needs, Muña admitted that they don't even have time to plan.

"The reality is we couldn't really plan when you're trying to solve the issues about not having the supplies available. What we hope to do it go back to planning again. So if we can pay our bills we can go back to doing that," she said.

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Former GOP president: I've already quit politics

Former CNMI Republican Party president Juan I. Tenorio distanced himself from accusations made by GOP member Rep. Ramon Tebuteb (R-Saipan) that the party's July 8 general membership and election was a "hostile takeover under the guise of a merger or transition."

"I quit politics. If he's not satisfied [with the election] he can write to the new chairman," Tenorio said in an interview with the *Saipan Tribune*.

Now that he's retired from the local GOP and politics, Tenorio said he will have time to concentrate on the Saipan Little League Baseball Association, where he was recently elected president.

"Publicly I came out and said I'm quitting politics. If they have arguments, they should respect the new leadership and contact the new chairman," said Tenorio.

Tebuteb last week wrote to Tenorio, saying he does not recognize newly elected CNMI GOP president Juan N. Babauta. He also labeled as "unofficial" the general membership meeting and subsequent election held on July 8 at the Garapan Central Park.

The Precinct 1 lawmaker alleged that existing Republican Party bylaws and policies were blatantly disregarded during the "unofficial and out of order" GOP meeting.

Babauta was elected the Republican Party of the NMI's president at the membership meeting that also saw the acceptance of 1,077 new and returning members, mostly former Covenant Party members.

Besides Babauta, the others who were elected as board members were Division of Fish and Wildlife's Richard Seman, Ramon "Ray" Salas, Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero, and Coastal Resources Management director Rita Chong.

The members also re-elected Roman "Bo" Palacios Jr. as national committeeman, and elected Viola Alepuyo as national committeewoman. Alepuyo is a Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission board member and Retirement Fund counsel. Alepuyo's term won't start until September 2012, though, as MaryLou Ada is still the national committeewoman. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Vendor of Viagra-like tablets gets 2-year probation sentence

The federal court imposed Friday a two-year probation sentence on a retail store operator who engaged in selling unapproved erectile dysfunction drugs or Viagra-like tablets.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge William Q. Hayes ordered Wei Yuan Ou to pay a $500 fine and $50 in special assessment fee.

Assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley had recommended that Ou be sentenced to a year of probation and that he be ordered to pay the minimum fines.

Attorney Stephen C. Woodruff served as counsel for the 46-year-old Ou.

Ou pleaded guilty to two counts of selling misbranded drugs in interstate commerce. The offense carries a maximum penalty of a year in prison or less and a fine of not more than $1,000.

Garrett Chinn, special agent with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Office of Criminal Investigations Honolulu Domicile Office, stated in his report that Ou bought the erectile dysfunction drugs in China and sold them at his retail store, the SU US MART.

Chinn said an undercover agent was able to buy 17 tablets of the drug worth $70 from Ou on Feb. 14, 2011, and 12 more tablets worth $48 on Feb. 17, 2011.

Erectile dysfunction drugs like Pfizer Inc.'s Viagra are medicines that require a doctor's prescription for purchase. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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TOYOTA

OPA

From Page 1

"Privileged and confidential means that a document is legally restricted," said Buckingham. "You don't see AGO documents routinely leaked to the press or unauthorized to serve personal or political purposes. Here, once again, the [OPA] has failed to ensure the confidentiality of OPA documents and seems to be working, like they have in the past, with Congressman Sablan to make good headlines."

Five reasons

When asked why he signed off on the contract with Mike Ada's firm, Buckingham said: "There are five main reasons I signed off on the contract. First, the issue of Mike Ada being the contractor was looked at by Mike Pai as the public auditor. He offered the following comments: 'OPA is aware of Mr. Ada's exhaustive knowledge of the ARRA program and understands the need for continuity and compliance with the reporting requirements. Indeed, your letter presents a persuasive rationale that would seem to justify the sole sourcing of Mr. Ada's contract.'

"OPA was silent about the ethical issues.

"Third, the contract was reviewed and approved by the CNMI Procurement Director.

"Fourth, the Commonwealth Department of Commerce reported that it was incapable of performing the review of ARRA funds.

"Last, the Commonwealth had nearly $100 million in federal funds at risk of monitoring and reporting did not continue."

When asked if there were ethical issues present, Buckingham said: "Yes, there were ethical issues. These were troubling. In the end, it was a question of balancing interests."

Asked if he had ever done something similar Buckingham said: "All contracts in the AG's office are reviewed by at least two attorneys. I get one of three recommendations: sign the contract, no problem; maybe sign but there are some legal issues; or 'don't sign' because there are legal problems. I recall one case where I got a contract with a 'don't sign' recommendation. There were significant legal issues present. The contract was for blood for the hospital. Without authorization, the hospital would have been without blood. I decided to approve the contract and send a letter so that the legal issues would be addressed in the future. Just like this contract, that represents a judgment call.

"I stand behind the decision I made to approve the contract for the blood. And, notwithstanding the ethical issues, I believe approval of the Ada contract was appropriate.

"I do believe, personally, that Mike Ada put the governor and the Commonwealth in a very difficult situation by leaving government service and then contracting privately for his services. That was unfortunate but it's a choice Mr. Ada made."

Not going to be silent

In contrast to the past, Buckingham said he won't remain silent while critics speak out. "It's not right for OPA to allow information to be improperly disclosed in violation of the law, misused and misquoted to serve political ends."

"OPA", Buckingham said, "seems recently to stand for the "Office of Pai's attorneys."

He disclosed that Pai has now retained a fourth attorney for OPA. Buckingham had previously filed suit against Pai for hiring Joseph Pryzuski.

Buckingham said: "Since Congressman Sablan is interested in ensuring 'public confidence' I call on him to answer these questions: Why does Congressman Sablan criticize the Office of the Attorney General but remains silent when the Office of the Public Auditor hires a ghost employee in Hawaii? Doesn't Congressman Sablan know that the real anger and motivation for Mike Pai against Buckingham is that the Attorney General of the CNMI stopped OPA from becoming "prosecutors?"

Stop playing politics

Buckingham said he's "just about had it with OPA being more interested in press releases and expanding its authority rather than doing the public's work."

"Mr. Pai's job is not, as I understand it, releasing confidential information to Congressman Sablan so a press release/headline can follow," he added.

Buckingham said that Pai's actions have included refusing to meet on areas of AGO/OPA interest and being upset that Buckingham removed OPA's prosecution authority after Buckingham became AG

"Mr. Pai wants the job of being both auditor and prosecutor. That's not his job. I told him this back in 2009 and he has been angry ever since. He continues to avoid working with the Office of the Attorney General on issues that really warrant our attention."

Buckingham said it's proper for OPA to keep watch on the AGO. "It's also proper for the AGO to keep watch on OPA."

He disclosed a recent e-mail where Pai refused to meet with him again on AGO-OPA audit issues. Instead, Pai wanted to meet to discuss Buckingham's pending lawsuit against Pai.

Buckingham said: "In hiring a person who was repatriated to Hawaii as a ghost employee with a fictitious duty station of Saipan, Mr. Pai has not followed the law. Our office will enforce the law. That's the reason for the lawsuit. Even while we may disagree on the hiring of a ghost employee in Hawaii, we should still do our assigned tasks."

He called on Pai to "work as hard on the business of the Commonwealth as he is working on press coordination with Congressman Sablan."

Autonomy

Pai earlier described Buckingham's complaint as "the latest of what appears to be a series of attempts by the AG to disrupt OPA's access to legal counsel and to challenge its autonomy."

"Pai asserted that my office delayed his hiring of a fourth attorney for the Office of the Public Auditor. He said our office held a contract from July 8 with no action. He is incorrect in his accusations and his facts.

"Notwithstanding that the contract calls for an additional OPA lawyer at the expense of $40,000 and a $10,000 retainer, the contract is legal and I signed it."

As to whether a fourth attorney for OPA is proper, Buckingham said the Office of the Attorney General might question whether a contact is proper but that is separate from whether the contract is legal.

"Normally, I would probably have spoken with the agency head about a contract like this. But, it seems Mr. Pai won't talk with me and insists that most communication occur through his lawyers. That's too bad because the AG and OPA head should work together." ***(PR)***

ADA

From Page 1

Guam and the Northern Marianas Islands declines to prosecute the investigation.

Deeply disapointed

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan said he is "deeply disappointed" that the U.S. Department of Justice declined to use the IG's findings as the basis for prosecution of public officials named in the report, Ada and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

"The Inspector General's report speaks for itself in detailing the violations of numerous Commonwealth laws and regulations in the award of a sole-source contract to Integrated Professional Services to manage some $100 million in federal Recovery Act funds for the Northern Mariana Islands. It does appear that the public trust has been violated."

Because Attorney General Edward Buckingham was himself a party to the award of the contract, Sablan said the people of the CNMI can have little confidence that the Office of the Attorney General will press charges or seek recovery of funds.

"The Commonwealth and its people have worked very hard over the last years to re-establish respect for our islands and to regain acceptance as part of the American political family. A report of this nature—and the illegal activities of highly placed government officials it points to—represents a setback in our effort and an embarrassment to us all," he said.

Sablan said this is especially unfortunate at a time when the CNMI and its people continue to struggle economically and need the support of the federal government to protect those who are suffering.

"How can we expect more help to rebuild, when the generous assistance of the American people that is coming to us through the Recovery Act is siphoned off for the personal gain of a few individuals—as the Inspector General reports?" he asked.

Confidential

Press secretary Angel A. Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* on Thursday that he can confirm that acting governor Eloy Inos has received the Inspector General's report, which he said was classified "confidential" by the originating authority.

"At this time, acting governor Inos has not had a chance to review the contents in detail nor has he had a chance to consult this matter with any of the parties involved," said Demapan when asked for the administration's comment about the report.

Null and void

The IG report said the CNMI government's sole-source contract with Ada's Integrated Professional Solution "is null and void if the procurement processes or execution fails to comply with CNMI Procurement and Supply Regulations."

It said the evidence suggests that the CNMI government's $392,406 contract to IPS violated multiple CNMI ethics rules, including provisions against post-employment restrictions, use of office, staff, or employees of public office, restraint on use of public position to obtain private benefit, and negotiating for nongovernment employment.

The IG report said IPS was awarded the contract just five days after Ada resigned from government, which violates the regulatory one-year period.

"Ada confirmed that he officially resigned his position as secretary of Commerce on Oct. 9, 2010, and signed the contract on Oct. 12, 2010. Review of the contract file showed that the director of Procurement and Supply processed the contract and issued the notice to proceed on Oct. 13, 2010. A $78,418 check was issued to IPS on Oct. 15, 2010," the IG report stated.

As CNMI ARRA state lead, Ada gained a distinct advantage in obtaining the ARRA management contract, the report said. It said that Ada used information not generally available to the public for his economic benefit.

This was acknowledged by no less than Attorney General Buckingham, the IG report said.

Further, the IG report said the sole-source justification memorandum from Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to Procurement and Supply director Herman Sablan on Oct. 6, 2010, seemed to parrot Ada's advantage in obtaining the contact.

"Mr. Ada has extensive historical and current knowledge, as well as non-public information of all ARRA funds. His clear advantage with the intricacies of the ARRA funds creates a distinct advantage should the CNMI government bid out the services according to procurement regulations," Filial memo to Sablan read, according to the IG report.

In addition, the IG investigation revealed that Ada "substantially participated through both discussion and rendering of advice in the IPS ARRA management contract, which affected his own financial interests and the financial interests of his partner."

At the time the contract was awarded, IPS had not yet been officially formed, but was in the process of being created. Ada began discussions for employment by contract with Fitial in August or September 2010. Ada began discussions with his partner during the summer of 2010, the IG report stated.

Violation of procurement laws

The IG said Ada may have also violated the Employee Conflict of Interest and Restrictions on Employment of Present and Former Employees clauses of local procurement laws.

"While still the secretary of Commerce, Ada participated directly in the IPS ARRA management contract in which he and his company had a financial interest. We found no evidence that Ada ever filed a written statement of disqualification with the director of Procurement and Supply. Ada did author the letter from the governor to the public auditor that requested an opinion on the sole-source award. The letter, however, did not address Ada's conflict of interest, and the public auditor declined to render an opinion on this contract.

"Both Ada and Filial admitted that in addition to several discussions about the contract while Ada was in office, Ada prepared most of the documents related to the contract. Ada researched the precedent for privatizing ARRA management, drafted the scope of work, and drafted the letter requesting an opinion to the public auditor. Ada said that he prepared and finalized the entire contract package, though when asked directly, he denied entering the name of his company on the final contract documents," the IG report said.

It also added that under CNMI Procurement and Supply regulations (specifically regulations 70-30.3-740), Ada is permanently disqualified from any contract involving his former governmental duties.

The Inspector General conducted the investigation jointly with the CNMI Office of Public Auditor. The OPA will separately provide its opinion to the local government.

SENATE

From Page 1

Upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate will proceed to vote without any intervention action or debate on Manglona's and Engelmayer's nominations.

The calendar states that the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions and the Senate will then resume legislative session.

A *Saipan Tribune* source disclosed that, on Saturday Gov. Benigno R. Fitial received email confirmation that Manglona's nomination will be voted on Monday at 4:30pm D.C. time.

The source said that Fitial visited Sen. **Patrick J. Leahy,** chairman of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, while he was in Washington, D.C. and asked that Manglona's confirmation be fast-tracked and voted on.

Last April, the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, acting by voice vote, unanimously approved Manglona's nomination to be the next judge in the district court for the NMI.

A lawyer told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that if the U.S. Senate will confirm Manglona's nomination, Manglona will eventually receive an official letter from the federal government about her confirmation.

The lawyer, who asked not to be identified, said that Manglona will have to resign her position as associate judge in the Superior Court.

CNMI Superior Court presiding judge Robert C. Naraja or Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan will have to write Fitial that there is a vacancy in the Superior Court.

Fitial, the lawyer said, will then submit a nominee to the CNMI Senate for confirmation to fill the vacancy in the Superior Court bench.

After Manglona's resignation, she can be sworn in as federal judge.

CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan recommended Manglona to President Obama in December 2009.

EXIT CONFERENCE WITH AUDITORS:

Software pension program among Fund's unresolved findings

The long-delayed database software program of the Retirement Fund was identified as one of the two unresolved issues at the agency, according to an audit report that was tackled Friday in an exit conference with the independent auditor and representatives of the Office of the Public Auditor.

According to Perlie Santos, representative of J. Scott Magliari & Co., the software project was marked unresolved because the new database has yet to be implemented despite the Fund exploring ways on how to recover the money that's already been paid the vendor.

OPA audit manager Ross Zapanta and public auditor Mike Pai also agreed that the finding is classified unresolved because conditions have not changed and no recovery has been made yet.

The pension software cost $449,000 and the contract was signed in 2008 with Express Electronics Ltd., which is owned by Gary Sword. Based on Fund records, it had already paid Sword's company over $402,000 for the still non-functioning software.

Because there is still $47,400 remaining on the project cost, the board opted to give the contractor more time to fix the program's deficiency.

The software project was supposed to have been completed in 2009. This was not realized, resulting in a delay of more than two years now.

In the single audit performed for the Fund in 2009, the pension software system was among the serious findings noted by auditors. The audit noted violations of the contract in both parties.

During Friday's exit conference with auditors, Fund board chair Sixto Igisomar said the pension software will be tackled at their next meeting, slated for Aug. 4.

The board has deferred action on the overdue pension software project on many occasions. It recently gave Sword's company 10 days to respond on how it plans to fix the program. The ten-day period was set to expire on July 17.

Besides the pension software program, auditors also indicated overpayment of refunds as one of the unresolved findings. The report says that "there were no documentations in fiscal year 2010 showing subsequent collection or communication with the former member who was overpaid."

For fiscal year 2010, J. Scott Magliari indicated that it found no material weaknesses and significant deficiencies in the financial statements of the Fund. It cited only two findings in the latest audit: the untimely posting and reconciliation of member contributions, which was caused by the staff turnover, and untimely remittances from autonomous agencies.

The other finding is the non-distribution of Form 1099 to recipients before the Jan. 31 deadline. This was due to staff turnover in the records section. The auditors said these findings are noncompliant with the Fund's own regulations and policies. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

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CPA exceeds airport, seaport bond ratio requirements

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is now in full compliance with the bond indenture agreements for both airports and seaports, with ratios to be shown in the fiscal year 2010 audit report that is expected to be released soon.

Ports authority executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero and comptroller Derek Sasamoto reported this to the board of directors on Friday following disclosure that the independent auditor Deloitte & Touche is amending the agency's last fiscal year audit report.

The required debt service ratio for both airport and seaport is 1.25.

The seaport ratio at present is at 1.36 and has been compliant for many years, compared to the airport side, which as of last month stood at only 1.06.

The two ports authority officials said the expected full compliance for debt service ratio came about due to the recent decision of the Federal Aviation Administration to approve CPA's classification of its passenger facility charge revenues as operations revenue.

The FAA's PFC program allows the collection of fees of up to $4.50 for every arriving passenger at commercial airports. The fees are used to fund FAA-approved projects that enhance safety and security.

In fiscal year 2010, CPA failed to meet the bond indenture agreement due to a $1.6 million unexpected expenditures that included $103,000 for repair of the baggage handling system; $95,680 for the Allied Pacific Environmental Consulting Inc. soil contamination project; $132,000 paid to the Internal Revenue Service; and $68,000 paid to the U.S. Department of Labor for noncompliance issues.

According to Deleon Guerrero, it was during an FAA conference in California last month that CPA raised the issue about PFC. The formal decision, he said, was received two weeks after the conference.

FAA, he added, even agreed to use CPA as a model agency for its PFC program in other airports.

"FAA agreed that PFC revenues must be considered part of CPA revenue in terms of looking at compliance with bond indentures," said Deleon Guerrero, adding that the agency is now putting together all information being asked by FAA so other airports could benefit from its findings.

Last Friday, the board adopted a resolution officially designating PFC revenue as CPA operations revenue—a requirement of the independent auditor to release the amended audit report for fiscal year 2010.

Prior to the FAA approval, Sasamoto had reported that CPA will incur a $789,000 shortfall in its audit report. In the amended audit report, the ports authority will realize an excess of $759,000. Because of this, Sasamoto said CPA is expected to be in full compliance with the bond ratio from now on.

'Fitch rating won't upgrade'

Sasamoto, however, said that despite of the financial improvements shown by CPA, the bond rating issued by the Fitch Ratings—a nationally-recognized credit rating agency—is not that easy to be changed.

He cited "external factors" affecting the overall ratings that are beyond the control of the ports authority.

In February this year, Fitch Ratings affirmed a "BB-" grade for the CNMI seaport bonds which indicates a negative rating outlook for all seaport bonds. CPA has about $33.5 million of outstanding revenue bond obligations under senior series 1998A and 2005A bonds.

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Auto mechanic says he paid $12,000 to get a job in NMI

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Chinese national claiming that he paid recruiters in China about $12,000 to get a job in the CNMI was found to be actually engaged in a sponsorship scheme with his supposed employer so that he could obtain an immigration status here.

As such, Labor administrative hearing officer Barry Hishbein ruled Wednesday that BaoQing Yao shall gain nothing from his Labor complaint against New Pacifiasia Inc.

"There is clear and convincing evidence that the parties engaged in immigration fraud as defined by the CNMI immigration law at that time. Yao should not benefit from his participation in the fraudulent scheme," said Hirshbein.

Hirshbein revoked the permission granted to Yao by the CNMI that authorized him to work as a contract worker.

Hirshbein's order will be forwarded to the Office of the Attorney General to determine if any further action is warranted. Hirshbein also forwarded a copy of his order to US Citizenship and Immigration Service, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

According to Labor records, New Pacifiasia Trading Inc. submitted to Labor on Jan. 9, 2007, an application to hire Yao as an auto mechanic. Labor approved the application after a month.

Yao arrived in the CNMI on March 7, 2007. He did not meet any representative of the corporation (New Pacifiasia) until about six months after his arrival. Despite meeting with Shao Hong Walker, the then corporate secretary, Yao never worked for the company.

Hirshbein said the question here is whether Yao's entry into the CNMI was intended to be a true employment relationship or whether it was a scheme to circumvent the then CNMI immigration laws.

Hirshbein said he finds that this employment arrangement was a sponsorship and that there was no intent to actually employ Yao. He determined that Yao merely sought entry into the CNMI and find work upon arrival.

"Yao's long delay in coming to Labor and his testimony that he sought to renew his permit with respondent despite having been provided no work is strong evidence of the intent to merely obtain lawful status to remain in the CNMI," Hirshbein said.

He said the fact that Yao went to the respondent after a year without employment and asked to have his contract renewed is believable.

"This testimony alone supports the contention that Yao's contract of employment was simply a tool to allow him to enter the CNMI and look for work," Hirshbein said.

He noted that respondent's failure to report to Labor that Yao did not report to work is strong evidence as well.

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Fund board OKs one-month utility deposit for PSS

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System has countered the proposal of the NMI Retirement Fund to pay a two-month deposit for its projected utility consumption during the extension period that PSS will stay at its building.

The Fund's legal counsel, Christopher Timmons, told the board of trustees during a special meeting Friday that PSS only wants to pay a one-month deposit for utilities. The board approved this.

PSS, which occupies both second and third floors of the Fund building on Capital Hill, has decided to move out next month after it failed to secure a lower lease rate with the Fund board. The system pays about $20,000 monthly for rental spaces, excluding utilities amounting to $10,000 per month.

The Fund initially agreed to a lower rate but set some conditions such as a three-month deposit for space rental and a separate meter for utilities or an advanced deposit. The system refused and decided to move to PSS-owned facility to save on cost.

Because its lease expired on April 30, the Fund approved a holdover period until the system can transfer to a new space. However, the holdover rate is an increased rate from $1.33 per square meter to $1.60 per square meter, with the condition that after satisfying all the rental payments, PSS will be given a rebate of 30 cents per square meter.

Last Friday, the board approved the PSS proposal to instead make a utility deposit during the holdover period of only one month instead of the Fund's two months.

It was learned during Friday's meeting that PSS has already paid its rental and utility obligations to the Fund up to the end of its lease. The PSS lease expired on April 30. PSS, it was reported, now only owes the Fund building rent for July and August.

PSS central offices will be temporarily housed in the vacant facilities at Marianas High School.

Retired cop's bid for acquittal, new trial in fruit bat case nixed

The federal court on Friday denied a bid for acquittal or a new trial filed by Adrian Mendiola, a retired police lieutenant who was found both guilty and not guilty of charges relating to the poaching of Mariana fruit bats on Rota.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge John Houston denied Mendiola's motions for judgment of acquittal or, as an alternative, a request for a new trial.

Houston said he will issue a written order that will basically incorporate the same grounds the court had previously stated in this case.

Attorney Ramon K. Quichocho appeared for Mendiola, who waived his right to appear at the hearing. Assistant U.S. attorney Kirk Schuler argued for the U.S. government.

A federal jury on May 13, 2011, found Mendiola guilty of unlawful possession of a threatened wildlife, but not guilty of unlawful receipt of acquisition of threatened wildlife.

In Mendiola's motions, Quichocho argued that only an acquittal will dispel "any shadow arising from conjectures or assumptions made by the jury that was cast on the appearance of justice in the case."

In the alternative, Quichocho said, a new trial is required because a shadow arising from the court's error in giving its supplemental instruction can only be dispelled with a new trial.

The lawyer said the case requires a new trial because the record is devoid of any evidence to show that the bats found in the freezer were of the subspecies Pteropus were indeed the federally protected *Pteropus mariannus mariannus.*

Schuler asserted, among other things, that Mendiola's motions have no merit. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

June 23, 2011

TO: Hilbert Henry C. San Nicolas

You are in default in your Note dated September 18, 2006, secured by a Mortgage of the same date, executed and delivered by you to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) Description of the real property covered by Mortgage:

Lot No. 008 T 266, situated in Marpo Heights Expansion, Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 812 square meters, more or less, as shown on DLS Check No. 008 T 03 dated March 31, 1999, recorded at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office as File No. 99-848, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

(b)	Date and amount of Note and Mortgage:	September 18, 2006; $48,658.00
(c)	Amount due for principal:	$2,212.00 as of January 1, 2011
(d)	Amount due for interest:	$10,865.85 as of January 1, 2011
(e)	Daily accruing interest:	$8.09
(f)	Late charges	$0

If the principal, interest, and late charges $13,127.85 as of January 1, 2011, plus accruing interest, together with reasonable attorney's fees, are not paid within thirty (30) days from the date of service of this notice upon you, Court proceedings will be commenced against you to foreclose upon the said Mortgage because of the default.

Unless you, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this letter dispute the validity of the claim, or any portion thereof, we will assume that it is valid. If you notify us in writing within this thirty (30) day period that the claim, or any portion thereof, is disputed, we will obtain information on the debt and mail you a copy thereof. Upon your written request within this thirty (30)-day period, we will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the creditor indicated above.

This letter is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for the purpose.

Ti un komple I kontratan debimu (Note) ni un fitma gi September 18, 2006, ni afabobot I Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ma asegurao I tano yan guma ni un empeña gi mismo dia, un fitma yan un entrega I empeña (Mortgage) guato gi Northern Mariana Housing Corporation.

(a) I deskripsion tano ni ma empeña (mortgaged):

Lot No. 008 T 266, situated in Marpo Heights Expansion, Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 812 square meters, more or less, as shown on DLS Check No. 008 T 03 dated March 31, 1999, recorded at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office as File No. 99-848, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

(b)	I Kantida yan I fechan este na debi yan empepeña:	Septembre 18, 2006; $48,658.00
(c)	Kantida un debi para principat:	$2,212.00 asta ki Eneru 1, 2011
(d)	Kantida un debi para interes:	$10,865.85 asta ki Eneru 1, 2011
(e)	Interes kada dia:	$8.09
(f)	Apas pot atrasao (late charges):	$0

Yangin ti un apasi I kantida na principat, interes, yan apas pot atrasao (late charges) $13,127.85 asta Eneru 1, 2011 yan I resanable na apas abugado gi halom trenta (30) dias despues di I fecha ni un resibe este na notisia, un ma konsidera komo ti unkomple I kontratamu (default), ya siempre u-matutuhun kontra hago a kausan kotti ni para uma kondena ya uma dendi I propriadat tano'mu ni un empepeña guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

Solo yangin halom trenta (30) dias dispues de un resibe este na kata yan un kontra minagahet-ña pot I apudera sino komo I pattida, siempre bai in hongge an asientadu a apulera. Pago yangin un kattayi ham gi halom este I trenta (30) dias siklo man infofotma hao pot I apudera sino komo I pattida para un kontra, pues bai in henta infotmasion pot I dibi-mu dispues un ma kattayi I kopia pot este na de'unta. Anai in resibe I katta-mu gi halom trenta (30) dias siklo, bai in nai'I hao I na'an yan address I akredot komo ti parehu na akredot ma indika guini hulu.

Este na katta para u ma na'kesiña ma rikohi I dibi-mu. Meseha hafa na infotmasion ni in resibe pot este na apudera – siña bai in usa para bai in ke-chagi mu rekohi para este I dibi-mu.

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ.
Attorney at Law

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ROTA GAMING COMMISSION CHAIR SAYS:

Saipan casino bill will 'scar' Rota

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Rota Gaming Commission chair Laura Manglona said the Saipan casino bill will "scar" Rota and will be the "most divisive" issue of the 17th Legislature.

Responding to Rota Legislative Delegation chair Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu's (Ind-Rota) request for the Rota Gaming Commission's position on House Local Bill 17-44, Manglona said it "would be the most divisive event of this Legislature. If the H.L.B. 17-44 were to pass, our economic situation in Rota will continue to be scarred with bandages."

She said that five years prior to passage of the Rota Casino Act of 2007, the residents of Rota have had similar debates over the casino industry.

Ayuyu

Manglona said while the casino proposal on Saipan has been defeated in past plebiscites on the island, it however continues to go through a "short-cut legislation, an industry that seem to bypass the will and consent of the residents of Saipan and the Northern Islands."

The Rota Gaming Commission chair urged Ayuyu to weigh the unintended consequences of such a controversial issue as the Saipan casino bill.

"You have it in your power to help us heal once and for all, to emerge as a stronger community, ready to embrace the economics of tourism opportunities that can help our new economic gaming industry in Rota," she said in her July 18 letter to Ayuyu.

Manglona also asked the Rota lawmaker to consider creative alternatives for the Commonwealth's economic plan that all people of the CNMI could embrace.

Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) in a recent interview with the *Saipan Tribune* said a fully developed casino industry on Saipan could bring in as much as $500 million annually to the Commonwealth.

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Saipan), meanwhile, said if the House indeed passes HLB 17-44, the upper chamber will follow through with its threat to file a lawsuit.

Introduced by Rep. Stanley M. Torres (Ind-Saipan), HLB 17-44 seeks to legalize casino operations on Saipan. It is pending at the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

Flashback
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 25, 2000

Lawmakers seek help to curb pollution
Lawmakers have appealed to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio to seek assistance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a plan that will reduce pollution and other environmental impact of water runoff on the lagoon surrounding the three main islands. In a resolution adopted by the House of Representatives Friday, they said a comprehensive water runoff system must be put in place on Saipan, Tinian and Rota to prevent pollutants being washed off from some areas during rainstorms. Offered by Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider, the resolution comes amid mounting concerns on the conditions of several beaches on Saipan that have been found to contain harmful bacteria, especially after a storm.

Bill seeking toxic compensation OK'd in House
To provide island residents the means to seek compensation for injuries and loss as a result of exposure to toxic substances, the House of Representatives has approved legislation establishing the legal framework if and when such situation occurs. If HB 12-177, otherwise known as the Toxic Substances Exposure Compensation Act, becomes a law, it will be a public policy of the CNMI to grant rights to the victims for compensation and other relief. Offered by House Natural Resources Committee chair Rep. Dino M. Jones, the measure is an offshoot to the planned lawsuit against federal agencies and manufacturers of the polychlorinated biphenyl, which has contaminated the coastal village of Tanapag over the last three decades.

July 25, 2001

$1M released to pay off-island referral billings
The Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund has decided to go ahead with its plan to loan $1 million to the Group Health and Life Insurance as seed money for a trust fund that would be used to pay for off-island medical referral billings. The Fund's Board of Trustees agreed to go ahead with the $1-million loan, subject to the approval of the Legislature, during Friday's board meeting at the conference room of the Tinian Casino and Gaming Control Commission on Tinian Island. Fund administrator Juan S. Torres said the money will be used to set up a trust fund in connection with the Fund's decision to hire the services of the Hawaii Pacific Medical Referrals Inc.

CUC confirms talks with Enron
It's confirmed! The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said yesterday it is meeting with representatives of Enron Mariana Power, Inc. today in connection with the bidding for the 60-megawatt Saipan power plant. This developed as outgoing CUC Chair Jesus T. Guerrero hinted in his statement at yesterday's board meeting that he wants negotiations with Enron to resume. "However, I can urge that the only sensible course is to get this project back on track by resuming contract negotiations with Enron," said Guerrero, who still sits as CUC board member until the end of the month. "We need power now. Right now, we cannot generate enough power for all our island customers," he added.

July 25, 2002

Boating Safety seeks use of CPA property on Tinian
The Commonwealth Ports Authority is now reviewing the request submitted by the Tinian local government to allow the island's Boating Safety unit to use a parcel of land adjacent to the San Jose Harbor. Specifically, Mayor Francisco Borja is asking the CPA to allow the Tinian Boating Safety to use for its operations a total of 2,000 square meters of property at the island's seaport. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas immediately forwarded the request and the copy of the draft Memorandum of Agreement to Seaport Facility Committee Chair Antonio S. Camacho for review and recommendations.

DLNR: Fishkill worst in 7 years
The fishkill at the Smiling Cove Marina that followed the onslaught of Typhoon Chata'an left at least 26 kinds of marine life dead—the worst in the last seven years. This was the findings of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, as it blamed non-point source runoff as the possible cause of the fishkill. "This type of event has occurred nearly consistently following every major storm event that passed Saipan in the last seven years.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Veterans outreach on July 25-29

Tina San Agustin, Federal Department of Veterans Affairs Legal Administrative Specialist from Guam and the Northern Marian Islands, will be on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota from July 25 to 29 for Veterans Outreach on Veterans Federal Benefits. She will be also be entertaining veterans questions and assist with claims. Agustin's schedule is a follows:

- July 25, 8:30am-4:30pm on Rota at the WIA office
- July 26-27, 8:30-4:30 on Tinian at the Tinian Municipal Council's office
- July 28-29, 8:30-4:30 on Saipan at the Military/ Veterans Affairs office on Capitol Hill, building 1364. ***(PR)***

Hopwood grade 6 and 7 open registration

The open registration for seventh and eighth grade levels of Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Jr. High School is ongoing until July 29. Parents and guardians of enrolling students should provide the school with all the necessary documents to avoid any problem in the processing of their child's enrollment. Any new or transfer students must also provide proper documents to prevent any delay in their processing. For more information, contact the school at 237-3422/3395/3421. ***(PR)***

Air Force, Navy Training on FDM, Warning Area-517

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on July 25-29 from 6:30am to 8:45pm.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 (W-517) on July 26-27 from 8:30am to 4:30pm.

The public—especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—is advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. ***(PR)***

Suspected supplier of fake Viagra pleads guilty

A suspected big-time supplier of fake Viagra pleaded guilty in federal court on Friday.

Cai Xia Xu, a female Chinese national, pleaded guilty to two counts of trafficking in counterfeit goods as part of a plea deal.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge William Q. Hayes set Xu's sentencing to Oct. 25, 2011, and ordered the U.S. Probation Office to submit a presentence investigation report on Sept. 20, 2011.

Assistant U.S. attorney James Benedetto appeared for the U.S. government. Attorney Michael Dotts served as counsel for the suspect.

The U.S. government had charged Xu with two counts of trafficking in counterfeit goods, introduction of misbranded drugs into interstate commerce, and receipt and delivery of misbranded drugs in interstate commerce.

Xu appeared for a change of plea hearing on Thursday. Hayes however, discontinued the hearing and rejected Xu's guilty plea after she burst into tears.

Xu, through an interpreter, stated that she didn't realize that what she was doing was a serious offense.

Garrett Chinn, special agent with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Office of Criminal Investigations, stated in an affidavit that a confidential source managed to buy a total of 50 bottles of fake Viagra from Xu on separate occasions on Feb. 24, May 2, and 6, 2011.

Each bottle reportedly contained at least 30 tablets.

Chinn said that test results of the drug brought from Xu showed that the label and foil seal were not authentic, and the bottle had a wrong recycle code.

An officer from Pfizer Global Security also tested the tablets and determined that the tablets and labeling were both counterfeit, Chinn said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Mount Carmel School

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Fax No. (670) 235-4751
Email: mtcarmel@vzpacifica.net
Web: http://www.mtcamel-edu.net

Request For Proposal
MCS RFP020-001

Mount Carmel School (MCS) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Food Service Management Companies (FSMC) to run the School Canteen for school your 2011-2012.

The proposal must address the essential requirements as indicated on the RFP Package. RFP packages may be obtained from the Mount Carmel School Business Office on Saipan during working hours (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) Mondays through Fridays except on Holidays. Interested FSMC's are encouraged to provide to Mount Carmel School in writing their mailing address, e-mail address, and or Fax number in the event that addendums are made to the RFP Package.

All proposals must be received no later than 9:00 a.m. August 01, 2011 at the Mount Carmel School Business Office, located in Susupe, Saipan. The proposal must be in a sealed envelope and facemarked "RFP020-001 – MCS Canteen and School Store Lease Attn: Margaret DelaCruz" and submitted to the Business Office.

Mount Carmel School (MCS) reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bid proposal and to award on a single or multiple award which it deems most favorable to the interest of Mount Carmel School. Mount Carmel School also reserves the right to waive any defects, informalities, and irregularities if to do so is in the best interest of MCS.

/S/ Margaret C. Dela Cruz
President, Mount Carmel School, Inc.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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MEMBER
The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

First lady eats a hamburger, the world ends

(c) 2011, Philadelphia Daily News

Someday, right-wing ideologues are going to choke on their hatred of Michelle Obama.

The latest line of attack against the first lady was facilitated by the *Washington Post*, which breathlessly reported a week ago that she had ordered a hamburger, french fries, a chocolate shake and a Diet Coke at a D.C. restaurant: 1,700 calories, the report calculated (then later corrected its estimate to 1,500.) The investigative reporter was not able to learn whether the first lady actually ate the whole thing or maybe shared it, but what's the difference?

(In case you hadn't already noticed, the *Washington Post* has come a long way from the days of Woodward and Bernstein.)

Conservative media ran with the story, of course, charging Obama with rank hypocrisy and continuing their vicious ridicule of her campaign against childhood obesity. The attack has become so bizarre that the rotund Rush Limbaugh has taken to calling the svelte first lady fat.

How dare she conspire to lower our children's blood-sugar levels while increasing their energy and self-esteem?

Only Grade A prime idiocy could turn what used to be a staple of responsible parenting—getting children to eat what's good for them—into a sinister social-engineering plot. It's enough to make us sick to our stomachs.

Besides, we need to tackle the problem of childhood obesity before today's kids develop serious health problems like diabetes—problems that they won't grow out of.

It's a complex challenge that needs to be addressed on many levels over time.

Take, for instance, "food deserts": nearly 24 million people, including 6.5 million kids, live in areas without supermarkets. Some research has tied that dearth of healthy food to increased obesity.

On Wednesday, Michelle Obama—there she goes again—joined with leading retailers like Wal-Mart, Walgreens and Supervalu to announce a plan to place 1,500 stores into areas without easy access to fresh fruit and vegetables.

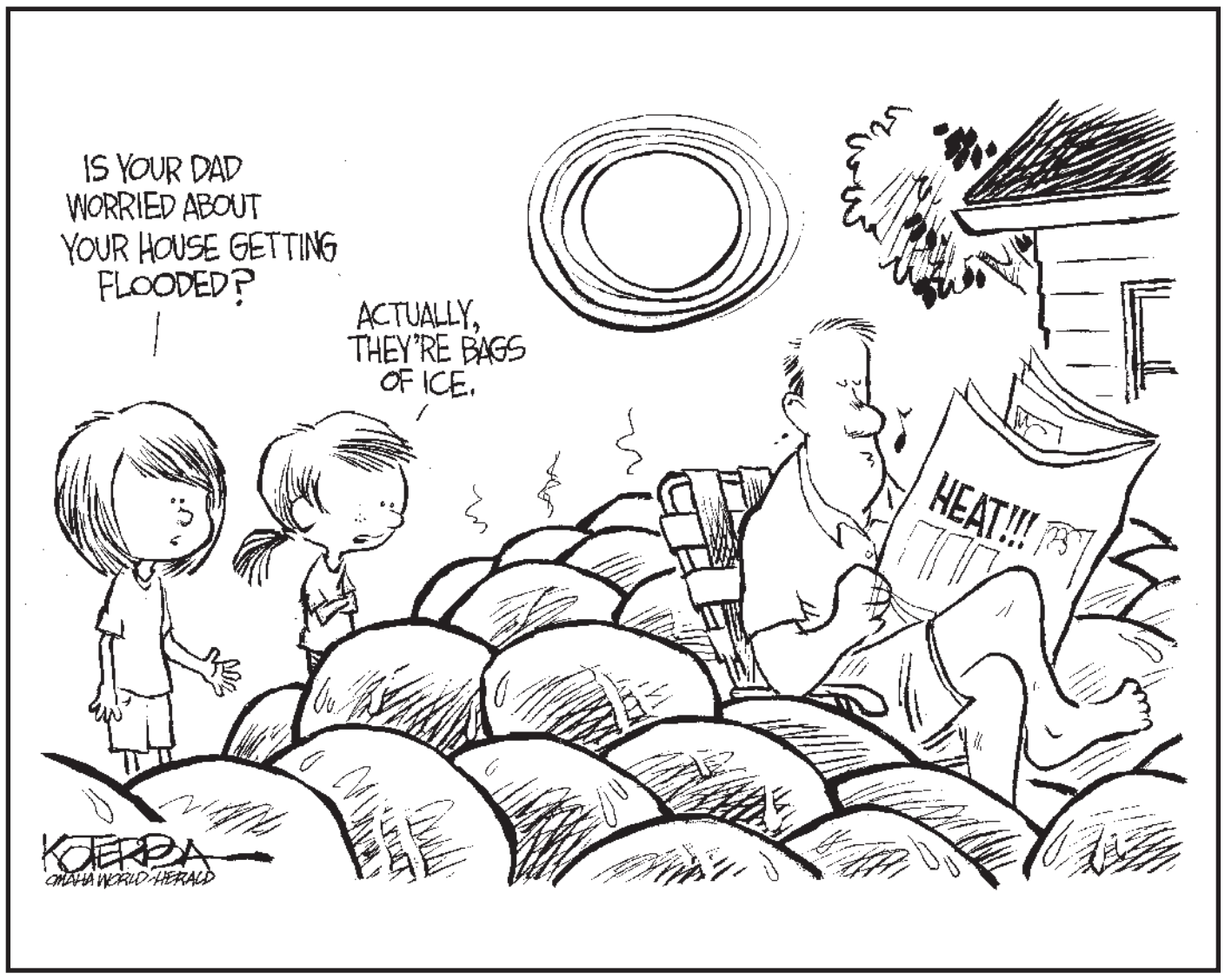
But a new report by the University of North Carolina published in the Archives of Internal Medicine found that living close to a supermarket doesn't necessarily mean a person eats healthier meals. Following about 5,000 people over 15 years, researchers discovered that income and proximity to fast-food restaurants had more effect on the kinds of foods people choose.

Opponents of the obesity campaign jumped on the study to suggest the whole idea is a scam, but look closer. In the first place, supermarkets sell at least as much junk and processed food as they do fresh produce, and it's much cheaper. Families without experience eating meals prepared with fresh food frankly need to develop new tastes and new habits.

And then there's the price. A Happy Meal can cost less than a healthy meal of fish and vegetables—and you don't have to cook it.

With supermarkets, it's not a question of "build it and they will come." Rather, it's "build it, advertise, provide education and support." The first step remains the same, though: Build it.

In this and other aspects of the drive to end childhood obesity, first lady Michelle Obama has proven to be a dedicated and savvy campaigner—and maybe that's what some people will never forgive her for.



We Hart U

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

Were I the entrepreneurial type, I might get bumper stickers and T-shirts printed with our title, along with a picture of a luscious very red apple in the shape of a heart next to Hart. Not patenting the idea, so enterprising ones out there, go ahead. Could be commercially viable.

Sharon Hart commends herself to us in several fronts. First, she is professionally a competent woman, and our being a strong proponent of *Nu ren ban bian tian* (Women hold half of the sky!), shattering of the imaginal glass ceiling that retains the entrenched patriarchal perspective in executive offices is high on our list. Her thesis at U of Illinois was on the status of women employment on non-traditional careers. Good enough.

Second, she was a Fullbright scholar doing research with Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda (Vadodara) in Gujarat, a State of India north of Maharashtra (we spent a lifetime in a few moons there late '70s) and south of Pakistan. The University is the only one that conducts its instructions in English in the whole State, and Hart's stint would have been as educational to her as it was challenging to her colleagues.

Third is her avowed interest in democratic governance in education and, given our island's propensity to rule by decree even in the clash of power positions, e.g., we surmise to be the case in the PSS Sablan v. Garrison brouhaha, a proponent of democratic governance could only be a welcome treasure chest of methodology that may just influence the archaic structures of central command posts.

Three impressions and we haven't met the lady yet. We deign to be presumptive.

We do know that NMC sits in a choice position as the only public institution of higher learning in the CNMI, a land grant institution ran like a community college by virtue of size of resources and clientele, though a four-year bachelor's program in education is in place.

NMC has been used as a whipping boy by the Legislature who looks at it as a fat hog of nonproductive value but whose appetite for financial assets is sheer pork, while the Chamber of Commerce thinks it should be fine-tuned vocationally to meet the needs of local businesses. Add to that the fact that a majority of the students allegedly require special accommodations of some form or another, and we have a college that is perceived as mostly a dumping ground for those who are not accepted by off-island institutions, and home to newly arrived immigrants needing to polish language proficiency and rapid acculturation to qualify and operate here or elsewhere.

The low institutional self-esteem is also a result of the island's tutelage in the art of running program grants under one administrative umbrella, creating fiefdoms and resulting in feudal wars in the absence of a genuine overarching vision, mission, and authentic sets of strategies. Thus, the ethos from Capital Hill to As Terlaje is to be proficient in grant writing so that we can put together a hodgepodge of programs and projects under the NMC logo.

Not that the above description is a particular monopoly of the CNMI as I am sure Sharon (she's called Dr. and/or President Hart enough that she might find it refreshing to be acknowledged more as a person rather than simply a professional role) knows through the various educational engagements that paper her trail. NMC does face the challenge of affecting a radical paradigm shift more than a facial makeover to get her on track to the cutting edge of contemporary pedagogy rather than as a wayside inn for personnel in transit, teachers and students on holdover, who are headed elsewhere.

We do not presume to tell Sharon Hart how to do her job. We do recognize the various players in place and it might not be a bad idea to return to pedagogy as the primary business of the institution. The Faculty Senate may focus on "how we teach" since "what we teach" is subject for research and development rather than done-deal object rammed down people's heads; the student body reflect "what and how we learn," running through the whole gamut of objective experiences, reflected expressed feelings, articulated interpretive thoughts, and decisional sets of actions to further the learning process.

College is where colleagues (all learners) gather with open minds to confer in their diversity with big hearts to accept the common and the marvelous, not a factory line where students are manufactured into uniform clerks and cubicle denizens.

The Board of Regents would do guardianship role, and administration facilitates and ensures efficient and effective implementation. Consensus would be retained at the level of doing, not on monitoring congruent ideas and similar thoughts.

The Legislature can retain contextual discord, dissonance and dissensus functions to further enhance diversity of opinions, but still realizing that allocation of funds and resources remain as their major responsibility.

Ah, but we are spouting opinions without being asked. So we will stop and I'm sure my media colleagues will keep their pens alert as Sharon Hart gives flesh to the dreams that make NMC a "smart" place in the island. And yes, we do Hart U!

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

How I got my job

By CRAIG GARRISON
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Craig Garrison is a former principal of the Marianas High School.

When the commissioner position came open several years ago, the then Board of Education chair at that time was the sole person according to the regulations that would decide who gets hired as the commissioner. At the time both David Borja, the acting associate commissioner for administrative services, and Rita Sablan, the associate commissioner for curriculum and instruction, had both applied for the position. However, there was a disagreement. Several board members recommended Rita Sablan; however, the chair never really liked her, so he decided that it would be David Borja in spite of the recommendation, as this was his choice. It should be said here that the regulation has since been changed to a majority vote for the position of commissioner.

When David took the post, Rita resigned her position and filed suit against PSS as she believed she was better qualified for the post, as during that time it was also revealed that David Borja had received his PhD from an online "unaccredited diploma mill" as released that year by the GAO report. Rita went off to Oregon and continued the lawsuit; Dave struggled through being the commissioner for nearly two years. During that time Rita would pursue her own PhD, also online, although reportedly from Phoenix University, which is much more reputable than Dave's, which was California Coast University, although I would add that even Phoenix can give credit for life experience, so go figure. Currently, California Coast has since had some of their degree programs accredited by the DTEC, which is for online schools and is on the list of accrediting agencies displayed in the USDOE website. However they no longer offer PhD's.

When the new election came around and a new board chair was elected, the board saw the opportunity to remove David as the majority had not recommended him in the first place and he was already getting flak from his subordinates. Soon after, they would place demands on David that surely he would fail at, and thus giving them a reason to remove him.

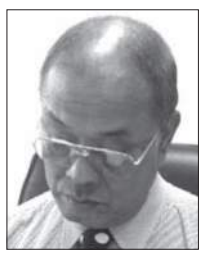
Once they did that, they thought that it might be a good idea to put visiting principals in the COE position during the interim until the position could be announced and filled. That worked for about two weeks or so and it was clear that this decision was problematic with all the documents to be signed and reviewed, and legal decisions that needed to be made, so that's where I come in. I was selected to be the acting commissioner until such a time when the position could be filled, even if it was months. Although offered to apply, I wasn't up to taking it, partly because I felt I wasn't ready and partly because I think we were all looking for this highly qualified, educated, and highly skilled superintendent that would lead us into the light. I was indeed happy to take on the task temporarily as I felt the system needed not only stability at the time but also needed a few things cleaned up. Also, because I knew at Saipan Southern we needed that stability at the top to ensure the school stayed on track as it was still a new school. So during the months of July and August in the summer I prepared the Office of the Commissioner for what would be a new hire. I carefully organized the processes and procedures, redirected resources, changed practices that were otherwise repeating and simply making the central office more efficient in its operations. All of which were met with constant praise by the way. I also recognized the need for equity and instructed Finance to inform me how much money was needed to give every support staff in the system a step raise. The total at the time was just over $200,000, which in comparison to the amount of money we spend on travel at the COE level now was nothing…so I then executed the order and gave everyone a raise. I cannot tell you how much of a positive impact this had on staff morale and work output, even when the raise to the check in many cases was a only a few dollars or even cents, but I can tell you that even today, years later, support staff from across the system still approach me with a thank you, usually followed by "when are you going to be commissioner." I then began to create a comprehensive "exit plan" document that was to be used by the incoming commissioner to ease the transition to the post and ensure not only continuity but equity that could be maintained as they took on the role. That "exit plan" would later be dismissed without even being looked at and filed in the bin by the new COE.

Following the announcement of the COE position, there were several applicants, two of whom were Rita Sablan and Ambrose Bennett, one other that was a former Rota teacher living in the States and two others from off island. Early on, the Rota applicant withdrew her application; the other two off island had incredibly exceptional credentials with one of them being a national superintendent of the year, etc. Unfortunately, even though their files were nearly complete, the final document faxed would come after 4:30 of the closing date and so at that time HRO did not want to be in a position of breaking a rule, so to speak, as they were already under scrutiny for accepting Dave Borja's unaccredited degree prior and also being sued by Rita Sablan.

So then the dilemma arose. I needed to make a decision, although not without the board. The problem was that first and foremost, we had only two applicants, Ambrose and Rita. At the time Ambrose was always in the news, attacking Herman Guerrero and the board with his views; I think he even sent around an email flipping off Herman during that year, so surely it was to be a tough call having Ambrose. Add to that Ambrose also had an EEOC charge pending with the system about hiring and or advancement discrimination, so here we had two applicants who both had claims against the system regarding hiring and one of them needed to be selected or the decision to re-announce the position would have to be made. In hindsight, I probably should have done that. However, at the time I reviewed both applications and it was pretty clear that Rita had a few more points than Ambrose so I was leaning toward her or the re-announcement as I felt that the process for allowing off island applicants was flawed with the deadlines, etc. After consulting with legal counsel, the conversation was to include that if Rita was to be selected that she would have to agree to drop the lawsuit. And that was my discussion with her. In the interest of the PSS and the desire to resolve pending legal issues the decision was made to offer Rita the position, so I did. So you see, it likely wasn't so much that Rita was highly qualified or ready for the job, it came more out of a need for the system to move on and to get out from under yet another lawsuit with the hope that she would fare well in her post and that she could learn. Although, once everyone started to see her weaknesses and complain, it was already too late for the board as they surely would not want to lose face and fire her out of fear they themselves would appear biased or unorganized. With Ambrose, he still had a claim and I had a solution for that too, an amicable one which I included in the exit plan. Unfortunately, as I previously mentioned it was disregarded and Ambrose went on with his case and subsequently Rita had to deal with it. And there have been others since then as she seems to attract these violations, and the PSS is good about trying to make them all go away with some hush money and a promise to never say anything bad about PSS, which they wouldn't have to keep doing if the COE would just play by the rules. It's much more amicable to find solutions to staffing issues through compromise and mediation instead of manic decisions and medication, which seems to be the SOP.

And so began Rita's journey into the abyss at the helm of a struggling school system. We all waited for the big moment, when she would suddenly come up with a great plan, a new direction, something, anything inspiring as an effective leader would have, but that never happened. I can't remember ever going to a monthly meeting where there was a principal or program manager in the house out of 40 or so that didn't have something negative to say about her, but then of course we all stand up and smile for the cameras when its picture time. With her on board, turbulence was around every corner and even to this day. I'm not sure if the system can survive it without taking a huge step back. We have several schools that are classified as "turn-around schools" by the federal government, although the feds seem to miss that it could very well be that we have a "turn-around" leadership that needs help even more. Some people adapt to "on the job training" very well, others flail around until it's their time to leave the nest. Usually waiting for the height of their accolades so they can go on to some political aspiration. I wonder when it will be her turn.

Mina laña gi tasin Marianas



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

Gi 1972, hu lie' un' mapa giya Washington linagnos i US Geological Survey 'nai mana anog hafa guaha na mina gi menan tasin iya Marianas.

Enteru atkipelagon tano'ta, papa' esta i tasin iya Palau yan Yap kuatdrau maraya kumu dipositon laña. Dañkuloña este na lugat laña ke todu ginen iya Middle East (Saudi Arabia yan otru nasion siha) na dipositon laña.

Ti hana' matmanyu' lokue' i masodda na fina mina gi tasin iya Hawaii ni mana sesetbe ni iya China para todu klasen produktu, kontodu mapatnas na television. I gai fuetsa humatsa este na mina iya Japon yan China. Esta Japon ha tutuhon mumuebague' para u kusecha este na mina para mafabrikan fahanon na produktu siha.

■■■

Ti megai tumuñgu' este na mina sa' ha gu'ot tatte Amerikanu este na infotmasion duranten negosiun i kontratan i Covenant. Hu komprende hafa i motibu, lau ti hu komprende hafa na ti man-malago' manae'yu' kopian ayu na mapa.

Dispues hu taitai un' leblu pot "Guinahan Nasion" siha (Wealth of Nations) 'nai matuge' haye na nasion mas fuetsudu gi uttimu: I nasion ni gumugu'ot mas megai na mina gi tanu. Unna' fan atotche este yan sahafa na rason na iya Amerika megai mampos lañaña ya ha hasñgon ti prumuduse pot konsetbasion. Gi mismu tiempu, hana' famadese mismu tautauña. Lau estague' buente signifikasioña ayu na leblu pot mina yan fuetsa.

Ta bira hit halom gi kuestion: Yangin enfin masoda' biyon pot biyon na kantidan laña gi tasin iya Marianas, haye gai eyu ennau na mina? Dos asuntu kahulu gi este na kuestion: 1. I federat listu siempre ha apunta huyoñg na tanaen' ñaihon direchota disposisionnasionatgipapa'SeksionaUnogipapa'ikontratanCovenant. 2. I otru patte i 'nai taya' inatuñgu pot sustansiau na asuntu tat kumu mina, pues debi umapega gi lamasa ya umanegosiu.

Ti hu tuñgu para amanu chiña este na asuntu. Lau faktu na modun linala' guine desde antigu na Chamorro, sumasauna i uson guihan taduñg yan esta kiñientus miyas (500 miles) huyuñg 'nai manpepeska i guelota siha. Este na puntu solu mas metgot na attikulu gi kuttura yan tradision isla desde antigu na komunidat natibu.

Olara mohon ya u guaha finenina kabales na inatuñgu yan inestudia pot para ke siña ta faisen i federat haf" primera motibu yan satton na rason na debi u masede Marianas nu este na pudet.

■■■

Hu tuñgu' na megai gi entre hita hilu' supin tasi 'nai mañgekuentus hit pot Attikulu Dose. Lau yangin un' taitai hafa sustansiaña este na probision siempre un' soda' i sigiente:

1. I tano'mu praibet mediu 'sino lamita ha' iyomu. Sa hafa na hu sasañgan este? Sa' klaru na taigue i uttimu disposision propiadatmu giya hagu. Estague disbintahaña este i Attikulu Dose.

2. Hafa na i prefektu gai haga' Chamorro yan Karolinas man-madiskualifika (disqualifed from ownership) lau i mañeluta ginen Micronesia man-masede?

3. Hafa na presisu na u guaha 25 pot sientu hagamu Chamorro 'sino Karolinas para un' siña gumai tanu' guine? 4. Haye siña chumanda direchoghu kumu disidienten Chamorro yan Karolinas.

5. Hafa na para ta sede i ma-adapta direchun tanu' ya i mangai haga' natibu maseha dididi' para un' chanda direchon niha?

Estague' 'nos kuantos sumen nachatsaga na asuntu ni para u chanda direchon famaguonta gi mismu tanu' niha. Atan, estudiaye ya maila' ta aregla todu este siha na disareglu 'sino hita mismu para ta padese i tasede lache na areglo g disposision tano'ta praibet.

■■■

Duru ham yan i amiguhu Magoo umasablasus pot Attikulu Dose. Ilegña un' amigon mame, "Dispasiu i finu' Iñglis sa' ya hokog, ni tanu kuatru pot sais pot sais pe na propiadat gi simienteyu ti in' akonfotma". Magahet, ni un' riku tu huñgu' bumatsala tano'ña papa' gi naftaña 'nai mapos para i tai hinekog na deskanson niha. Ha sotta gi santatte pot para tafan adisgustu haye para u fan dueñu dispues! A'Sanai!

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲85° ▼78°	▲85° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼78°

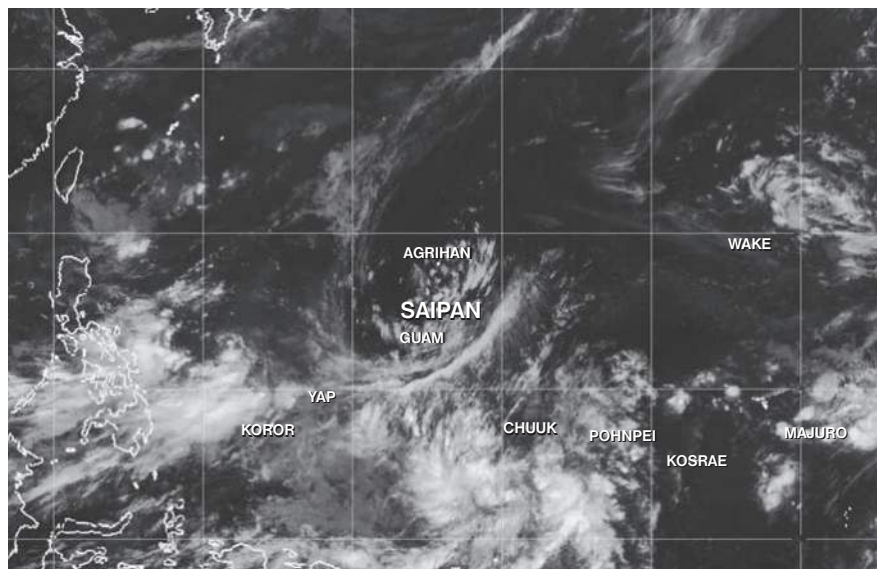
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲87	▼80
Palau	Rain	▲86	▼78
Yap	Rain	▲83	▼77
Chuuk	Rain	▲82	▼75
Pohnpei	Rain	▲82	▼75
Kosrae	Rain	▲84	▼78
Majuro	Rain	▲84	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲53	▼44
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼73
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼82
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼74
London	Showers	▲70	▼54
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲80	▼64
Manila	Thundershowers	▲87	▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲59	▼43
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90	▼79
New York	Showers	▲80	▼69
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲89	▼78
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼55
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲83	▼75
Rome	Sunny	▲83	▼66
Salem	Sunny	▲78	▼57
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼55
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲81	▼73
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲89	▼78
Washington, DC	Showers	▲85	▼74

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, JULY 24, 2011

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Converging surface winds are causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms well north of the Marianas within 90 miles of a line from 22N131E to 22N141E to 25N145E. A monsoon trough stretches east-southeastward from beyond 130E at 12N passing through circulations centered southwest of Chuuk near 5N150E and southwest of Kosrae at 4N161E to end at EQ166E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found just northwest of Koror within an area bounded by a line from 15N130E to 12N138E to 7N136E to 7N130E back to 15N130E and southeast of Yap to south of Chuuk and Pohnpei or south of a line from 6N137E to 11N141E to 2N162E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Kwajalein and Majuro east of a line from 13N167E to 9N165E to 7N173E to 2N174E. An upper-level low is centered northeast of Wake Island near 22N176E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present northeast of Wake Island north of a line from 23N171E to 19N177E to 19N180. Another upper-level low is centered well northeast of Saipan near 17N153E. Isolated thunderstorms are found within 70 miles of a line from 17N153E to 23N157E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:40 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
9:29 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
4:46 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
8:55 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:57 AM	6:50 PM
Tuesday	5:58 AM	6:49 PM
Wednesday	5:58 AM	6:49 PM
Thursday	5:58 AM	6:49 PM
Friday	5:58 AM	6:48 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:41 AM	1:52 PM
Tuesday	1:27 AM	2:45 PM
Wednesday	2:18 AM	3:39 PM
Wednesday	3:12 AM	4:33 PM
Thursday	4:09 AM	5:25 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2011

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K382	6:00pm	6:50pm	2, 5, 7
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

MU590	4:30am	7:20am	2, 6
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 4

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT
C09313/933	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
5K168	3:25pm	6:35pm	1, 4, 6
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K389	1:35pm	2:25pm	1, 4, 6
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:05pm	12:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

MU589	8:50pm	3:30am+1	1, 5
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0892/9596	9:55pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:25am+1	3, 6 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
5K169	9:55am	5:00pm	2, 5, 7
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Letters to the Editor

Jack Nicholson Economics on Saipan

In the movie *A Few Good Men*, Tom Cruise is a lawyer who runs up against Jack Nicholson who commands the military base. In one of the greatest movie scenes, Nicholson in frustration yells at Cruise who is cross-examining him: "You can't handle the truth."

Jack Nicholson Economics states first that to succeed in business you must be constantly assessing the market realities and be able to objectively and coldly "handle the "truth" for your business, or, as in an elected official's case, your government and society's affairs. A business or government must answer a need and solve a problem that the market actually truly has, and be able to "handle the truth" when they got it wrong like the CNMI has. No time for saving face.

The second painful truth follows right on those heels: Do we even have an economic right to exist in the market with our new product, or current social structure and revenue model? Are we relevant anymore? For example, Borders, the big retail book chain in the mainland, just filed for bankruptcy as the online and ebook market stripped them of any unique value in the retail book market. The problem wasn't the digital shift in the way consumers are starting to read books; it was sadly that the company management never saw it coming, or were not prepared to change their model. They're now toast and part of history.

This "are we still relevant" includes governments also accessing their operational models and mission statements to their community and the direction they are leading or, in the CNMI's case, *failing* to lead. And then "handling the truth" and the new norm that now exists for their people, like it or not.

The inconvenient truth nobody wants to handle is that the CNMI must now hit the reset button for a new life plan and cultural business model to lead their people into a new era. I believe the way forward is based on a moral question of "giving" and seeing yourselves as contributors to humanity, and not "taking" and collectively singing in hushed whispers up on Capital Hill, "Oh where oh where can Tom Delay be, the feds took him away from me, he's gone to prison so he's gotta be good.. dadadada." Y'all know that dark song all too well up on Capital Hill.

The island of Saipan as a God-fearing community should be asking serious ethical questions of the Bud and Barbecue Boys Club that they constantly incestuously re-elect to park their butts in government jobs. But all the cousins and aunties of these elected characters "can't handle the truth" that their extended family politics is literally destroying the lives of a next generation of islanders and their right to have a meaningful life here.

Here's another truth question: What strategic role can our island, people, culture, and available resources, play in the new world economic model? Where is our value to serve mankind? The islands' answer to its future and solving their broken business model lies in adopting a new paradigm in seeing their positive value to the planet, and embracing themselves as valuable contributors, not crybabies looking for handouts. You must first see yourselves as dynamic contributors to the Pacific economy, not the worst performing island economy of all the U.S. territories. The collective low self-image that Saipan has of itself must change first before any lasting or meaningful shift can begin to evolve. Saipan is now like a women desperately looking for Mr. Right, and she'll never find him. Why? Coz Mr. Right doesn't exist, and the key to happiness is in *her* becoming "right" first before anyone "right" for her will even notice her. It's the same for your collective island and social self-image, and the right economic solution will never emerge until you do some serious house cleaning first. *Stop voting for your relatives and get rid of the ice. Now!*

Jack Nicholson Economics offers these solutions for saving the CNMI:

1) Quit voting for your damn relatives and wake up. Rome is burning.

2) Get rid of that stupid Article 12 debate and move forward with investor confidence in the islands and that valuable long-term investments won't get screwed by local politics

3) China tourism. This is the single biggest local business initiative that can shift the tide on the CNMI's tourism future. Forget relying on the Japanese; they're now part of '80s and '90s history that's never to return. Make the CNMI family-friendly to the Chinese and be the main competitor to China's Hainan island and Sanya.

4) Local agriculture. Get off your butts on Capital Hill and go smoke the peace pipe and have a good betel nut chew with your Chammoro brothers in Guam and make a deal! Start bending over and dropping some of God's powerful life giving seeds into the ground and work that land, brothers. That's a moral, and a God-fearing just way of providing good sacred food to humanity, and something be proud of! Sadly, too many locals now are in a dazed and confused dream state that tells them they have evolved now to only work in air-conditioned offices and shuffle paper. This mindset will 100 percent doom you into becoming an Indian reservation in the Pacific that resembles more a Devil's Island prison where nobody can escape from.

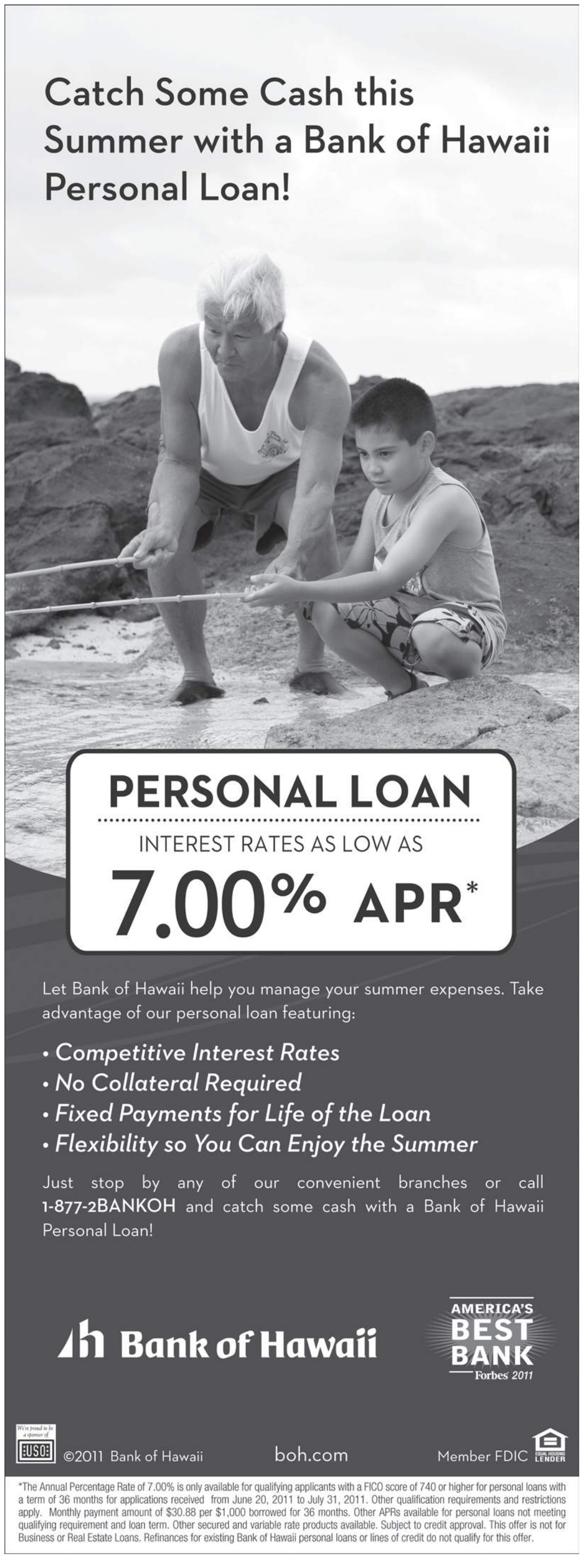
5) Reunification with Guam. It's the only macroeconomic solution that has any scalable and long-term benefit to the CNMI. Your current system has failed. Accept it, get over it, and move forward. It's the only path that will lead you to better long term future.

6) Stop chasing well-intentioned smart Americans and other *haoles* away and embrace their value. Some actually love the island and want it to succeed

7) You need some off-islanders elected to government—a Chinese, a white man from California, a Japanese businessman, whoever. You must start on the road to replacing the governor with a qualified person who is not local, not an islander, and comes from an experienced background with real business acumen that is needed to strategically reshape the island's model to a new century, and is not tainted by local family special interests and short-term greed. It's highly doubtful that any local at this critical stage is truly qualified to lead the CNMI and evolve a new economic model to save your people.

In summary, Jack Nicholson Economics says get to the *truth* and *handle* it now. Rome is burning fast. Do some planting, design your tourism to attract the Chinese en masse, inspire the world to invest on Saipan by dumping that cancerous Article 12, allow an outsider to take a run at leading your government, and get back in bed with Guam. Then smile with your big island hearts and look at the world in terms of not what you can get out of it, but by what we as a proud good people can contribute! Do this and you will survive, and then Mr. Right's economic lifesaver will emerge organically to also reshape your lives in profound ways, not just increase your government treasury.

Chris West
Los Angeles, Calif.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*The Annual Percentage Rate of 7.00% is only available for qualifying applicants with a FICO score of 740 or higher for personal loans with a term of 36 months for applications received from June 20, 2011 to July 31, 2011. Other qualification requirements and restrictions apply. Monthly payment amount of $30.88 per $1,000 borrowed for 36 months. Other APRs available for personal loans not meeting qualifying requirement and loan term. Other secured and variable rate products available. Subject to credit approval. This offer is not for Business or Real Estate Loans. Refinances for existing Bank of Hawaii personal loans or lines of credit do not qualify for this offer.

Fund's investments drop $19.9 million in FY 2010

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund's market investments declined by $19.9 million last fiscal year, based on the latest audit report of the agency released Friday.

From a market value of $332.308 in fiscal year 2009, the amount went down to $312.326 million in fiscal year 2010—a decrease of a total of $19.981 million or 6 percent of total market value. Despite this, investment performance showed a net gain of $24.448 million in 2010 compared to a loss of $4.5 million in fiscal year 2009.

Based on the audit report completed by J. Scott Magliari and adopted by the board of trustees Friday, the Fund made a total of $40.755 million withdrawals from the investment portfolio last fiscal year. These drawdowns were used to cover shortfalls in pension payouts to members because the CNMI government failed to pay the employer's contributions at the required actuarial rate of 37.3909 percent.

Based on the audit report, the Fund's assets are invested in stocks and bonds, 63 percent; fixed income, 25 percent; mutual funds and real estate, 12 percent. It was also disclosed that the actual allocation varied throughout 2010 as the market values of investments changed daily but were maintained within the ranges allowed in the investment policy statement through the Fund's drawdown of funds.

Besides the significant drop in the Fund's investment value, the report also indicated a decline in both employee and employer contributions to the pension program. In fiscal year 2010, employer contributions totaled $32.660 million, a slight drop compared to fiscal year 2009, which had a total of 36.329 million. The figure represents a reduction of $3.6 million or 10 percent. According to the audit, the decline was due to the Legislature's failure to pass the fiscal year 2010 budget until several days into the fiscal year, resulting in the shutdown of non-essential government operations. It said lower government payroll equates to lower contributions to the Fund. Also, a large number of employees resigned from the government and obtained refunds on their contributions.

Employee contributions showed a slight decline of 1.4 percent—from fiscal year 2009's $8.508 million to fiscal year 2010's $8.390 million. The decline was a direct result of the brief shutdown of the government operations as well as the separation from government service of those employees who refunded their contributions.

The revenue sources that finance the cost of administering the pension benefits and retirement benefits include employee and employer contributions, investment income, CNMI appropriation, debt service collection, and rental income.

FSM congress sets session set for Mori's nominees

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—The First Special Session of the 17th Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia is scheduled to convene today, July 25, for 10-days as called by President Emanuel 'Manny' Mori to address his nominations and Budget issues among others.

Along with the issues noted in the President's Call, Congress is expected to seat the newly elected members for the vacant four-year seats in the 17th Congress, namely for the States of Chuuk and Kosrae. The seats were vacated by President Mori of Chuuk and Vice President Alik L. Alik of Kosrae.

It is expected that the Oath of Office will be administered on the first day of the Special Session to the newly elected four-year members or at-large representatives Yosiwo P. George of the State of Kosrae and Wesley W. Simina from the State of Chuuk.

The Special Session as called by Mori is to address among other matters, four urgent issues for which he indicated are: 1. The nominations for his Cabinet positions and the nation's Ambassadors; 2. The upcoming Fiscal Year 2012 Budget; 3. A 2011 supplemental budget; and 3. The budget for the Program Management Unit.

The Special Session is expected to adjourn on Aug. 5, 2011, but may be shortened or extended by resolution.

The session precedes the two-day inauguration ceremonies for the national government scheduled for July 28 thru 29 at the FSM-China Friendship Indoor Auditorium in Palikir. ***(PR)***

CLASS OF 1957

In 1995, the Class of 1957 gathered to affirm our commitment and fellowship with each other. Once again, we are urged to attend this year's celebration of our 69th and 70th birthday at the residence of Frank and Fe Cepeda in As Matuis, Sunday July 31, 2011, at 11:30am. Our group has been meeting annually to affirm our dedication to helping those in need, our gratitude and joy in our life and health. For more information call Chailang Palacios at 322-3623.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to the world's greatest Mom, Elaine "Bodig" Benjamin! Though we say this a lot, a quick reminder that we are truly blessed with our very own angel from God. We thank you for all the sweet things you do. We hope you enjoy your special day, Mommy! You're looking younger each year. Love and kisses from your Life, kids, and grandkids!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hillbroom's ex-lawyer claims he is now Vietnam permanent resident

» Israel argues he is not subject to jurisdiction in CNMI

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Attorney Barry J. Israel, one of the former lawyers of Junior Larry Hillbroom, has asked the federal court to dismiss Hillbroom's lawsuit against him as he is now a permanent resident of Vietnam and is therefore not subject to personal jurisdiction in the CNMI.

Israel, through counsel Ramon K. Quichocho, argued that Hillbroom bears the burden of establishing the "minimum contacts" necessary to exercise jurisdiction over an out-of-state defendant such as himself.

Hillbroom is one of the four DNA-proven children of the late business tycoon, Larry Lee Hillblom.

Hillbroom is sueing Israel in district court for allegedly conspiring to inflate the attorneys' contingency fee when Hillblom's fortune was still undergoing probate proceedings.

In Israel's motion to dismiss, Quichocho said where the contacts with the forum are "continuous and systematic," a court may exercise general jurisdiction over the defendant in any lawsuit, even when the contacts are entirely unrelated to the subject matter of the lawsuit.

"Second, some lesser level of contacts will enable a court to exercise specific jurisdiction over the defendant in a lawsuit arising out of those contacts," Quichocho said.

The lawyer said Israel is also not subject to general jurisdiction.

Quichocho said general jurisdiction "is an exacting standard, as it should be, because a finding of general jurisdiction permits a defendant to be hauled into court in the forum state to answer for any of its activities anywhere in the world."

He said when a court determines whether or not there is general jurisdiction, it should consider "whether the defendant makes sales, solicits, or engages in business in the state, serves the state's markets, designates an agent for service or process, holds a license, or is incorporated there."

When general jurisdiction is sought over a nonresident such as Israel, the decisions are filled with cases holding that even intermittent contacts will not suffice, according to Quichocho.

Quichocho said the fee agreements alleged in the complaint, and the final accounting of fees and costs Israel received, were disclosed to Hillbroom's guardians and his trustee, and they were duly approved in orders issued by the Guam Superior Court.

"Now, more than eight years after [Hillbroom] turned eighteen, he commenced this action collaterally attacking those Guam court orders. The complaint should be dismissed because it suffers from fatal defects…"Quichocho said.

Alternatively, Quichocho said, the case should be transferred to the U.S. District Court for Guam.

Hillbroom also named as co-defendant in the lawsuit Keith Waibel, the former trustee of his trust JLH (Junior Larry Hillbroom), for negligence, breach of fiduciary duty, fraud, and racketeering activity.

Waibel denied the allegations and filed a cross-claim against Israel in federal court. He recently claimed that Israel is hiding in Vietnam.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
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Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled on **Wednesday, July 27, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.** The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMARY MATTERS
 a. Call to Order
 b. Roll Call
 c. Adoption of Agenda
 d. Adoption of Minutes:
  April 12, 2011, Regular Board Meeting Minutes
  April 19, 2011, Special Board Meeting Minutes
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
 a. Personnel & Budget
 b. Update - Telephone System
 c. Update - Travel Policy
IV. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
 a. CDBG Status Reports
 b. PY 2011 CDBG Proposals
V. MORTGAGE CREDIT PROGRAM
 a. Loan Status Reports by Programs / Delinquency & Litigation Report
 b. Buy-back RD Loans Status Report
 c. NSP Status Report
 d. Lease-To-Own of NMHC Properties
 e. REO Purchase
 f. MPLT Accounts at BoH Update
 g. BankPacific Status Report
 h. HOME Loans for Approval
 i. USDA RD new MOU
 j. Other Loan Matters
VI. PROGRAM & HOUSING
 a. Section 8 New Construction Program: Liyo Status Report
 b. Section 8 Status Reports by Location: Saipan/Tinian/Rota
 c. Voucher Program Status Report by Location: Saipan/Tinian/Rota
VII. FIELD OFFICE REPORTS
 a. Tinian
 b. Rota
VIII. FISCAL AFFAIRS
 a. Fiscal Year 2008 & 2009 Audited Financial Statement Status
 b. NMHC Current Fiscal Year Financial Statement: Funds Availability & Cash Forecast Report as of June 30, 2011
 c. Amended Budget for FY 2012
 d. Employees Accounts Receivable Status Report
 e. BoH Reserve Account
 f. Outstanding Receivable for BoH Non-MPLT and MPLT Accounts
 g. HUD Grants Status Report
IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION
X. OTHER MATTERS
 a. LIHTC Status Report
 b. LIHTC Evaluations
XI. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Division of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 501304 CK, Saipan, MP 96950-1304
Tel: (670) 664-8500/1
Fax: (670) 664-8540

PUBLIC NOTICE

BROWNFIELDS PUBLIC OUTREACH MEETING
ON JULY 28-29, 2011.

The Division of Environmental Quality would like to announce that there will be a **Brownfields Public Outreach Meeting in Tinian on Thursday, July 28, 2011 at the Tinian Public Library from 5-6:15 pm and in Rota on Friday, July 29, 2011 at the Northern Marianas College from 1-4 pm.** The meeting is open to the public. General Brownfields topics such as site eligibility and the site assessment process will be discussed. The purpose of this meeting is to promote and build community awareness and support for the Brownfields program and to meet with potential eligible land owners for Phase I Environmental Site Assessment activity. A Brownfields site is defined as, "real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant". DEQ currently has funding under the Brownfields program to conduct Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessments using the ASTM E 1527-05 Standard. The funding use is to support the potential redevelopment of prospective sites that meet the definition of Brownfields.

For more information, please contact DEQ SAR Branch Manager, Ray Masga, at 664-8500 or email at raymasga@deq.gov.mp.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Public Health
Community Guidance Center
Guma' Ina' Ayuda Imwaal Alillis
(Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services)

PROJECT BRABU
Advisory Council
Jerome Ierome, Chairman

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Community Guidance Center (CGC) Prevention Unit, specifically for the Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG) Project Brabu, is hereby giving notice that the Project Brabu Advisory Council is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, July 26, 2011, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the CGC Main Office Conference Room, Navy Hill, Saipan

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER (Welcome & Introduction)
II. ROLL CALL
III. REVIEW & ADOPTION OF AGENDA
IV. REVIEW & ADOPTION OF MINUTES (June 24, 2011)
V. REPORTS
 a. Chairman
 b. Director
  • Fiscal Report
  • Evaluation Report
 c. State Epidemiological Workgroup (SEW) Report
 d. Evidence-based Intervention (EBI) Workgroup Report
VI. OLD BUSINESS
 a. Sub grant applications
  1. Terms and conditions of awarded recipients
  2. Clarifications and concerns regarding applicants
 b. Council member's attendance
VII. NEW BUSINESS
 a. Start up funds
 b. Post award Procedures
  1. Letters
  2. Workshop
VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Next scheduled meeting – August 25, 2011
IX. ADJOURNMENT

All interested individuals are welcome to attend. Should you need further information, please contact the Community Guidance Center, Prevention Unit – Project Brabu at 323-6571/2.

/s/ Mr. Jerome Ierome
Chairperson

/s/ Ms. Josephine Sablan
Project Director, CGC

Publication of this notice was paid for with federal funds made possible by **Grant Number:** 5U79SP015621-03 of the Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant, Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Business

SHRM PRESENTS

How to set up a low cost college savings plan or retirement plan

The July general membership meeting of the Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter will be focusing on the topic of "Setting Up a Low Cost Retirement or College Savings Plan," which will be presented by Donald Clark and Nathan Taimanglo of ASC Trust Company.

The morning meeting will be held at the Pacific Islands Club (Napu Room) on Thursday, July 28, 2011, from 9am to 12pm, and is open to the public.

As a good employer, you probably want to ensure that you and your employees can put away money for retirement. But if cash flow is tight and you are barely making ends meet, you may wonder how you can help yourself and your employees. This presentation will provide you the answer. You and your employees may also wonder how a college savings plan for the kids can be set up at a reasonable price. This meeting is open to the public and will be an invaluable opportunity for employers and employees to learn cost effective ways to start or modify a retirement plan or setup a college savings plan. Clark and Taimanglo will cover important topics such as:

■ What is a 401K retirement plan;

■ Cost an issue? How an employer can make a 401K plan work in an economic slowdown;

■ Business is Good? How to shelter up to $49,000 in taxable income for yourself;

■ Already have a 401K plan? How to check if its performing and make changes for better growth;

■ Why a Roth 401K is the way to go in the CNMI;

■ Individual IRA options if your employer doesn't offer a retirement plan;

■ Effective college savings plan options;

■ Benefits of the 457 and new Roth 457 plans for CNMI government employees in the Defined Contribution plan.

The presentation includes morning refreshments and the cost is $20 for SHRM members and $30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Polly DLG Masga 237-5122 or e-mail her at pollydlg@gmail.com. ***(SHRM)***

First Hawaiian Bank reports solid first half

Hagåtña, Guam—First Hawaiian Bank reported first half 2011 net income of $107.1 million, up a modest 1 percent over the first half of 2010. Second quarter net income of $54.5 million was equal to the comparable quarter of 2010. Total deposits grew 11.6 percent to a record $11.7 billion. The announcement was made Friday by Don Horner, First Hawaiian Bank chairman and chief executive officer.

"Overall, the bank continued to perform well, with consistent core earnings and strong asset quality," Horner said. "First Hawaiian remains committed and well positioned to supporting our customers especially during these challenged economic times. We remain in a sluggish, jobless recovery in part because of the weakness in our construction sector. However, both the tourism and retail sectors are producing positive trends which reflect improvement in consumer confidence."

For the six months ending June 30, 2011, First Hawaiian Bank achieved the following over the prior year:

■ **Deposits:** $11.7 billion, an 11.6-percent increase.

■ **Total Assets:** $14.8 billion, a 0.3-percent increase.

Loans and Leases: $8.2 billion, a 2.2-percent increase.

■ **Capital (Net worth):** Remained well above other Hawaii banks and in the top quartile nationally as a percentage of total assets.

■ **Non-Performing Assets:** Asset quality remained one of the strongest in the U.S. with non-performing assets at 0.2 percent of total assets.

During the second quarter, First Hawaiian became the first bank on Guam to offer personal trust services with the formation of a new trust company, FHB Guam Trust Co. The new operation is located in Tamuning, Guam, and provides a full range of personal trust services, asset management, and estate plan administration. In April, First Hawaiian was the first Hawaii bank to accept the BC Global Card, which is part of the largest domestic payments network in Korea. First Hawaiian now accepts the card through its network of 7,500 merchant locations and nearly 300 ATMs in Hawaii. Finally, in the area of community service, the bank became a leading sponsor of The Aloha Initiative, an effort to match victims of the March 11 devastation in Japan with host families in Hawaii.

First Hawaiian Bank with $14.8 billion in total assets was founded in 1858 and is Hawaii's oldest and largest bank. It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of BNP Paribas, a leading global financial services institution. BNP Paribas is one of the highest rated banks in the world with an AA credit rating from Standard & Poor's. ***(FHB)***

Airlines are taking savings from expired taxes

DALLAS (AP)—Airlines are tossing consumers aside and grabbing the benefit of lower federal taxes on travel tickets.

By Saturday night, nearly all the major U.S. airlines had raised fares to offset taxes that expired the night before.

That means instead of passing along the savings, the airlines are pocketing the money while customers pay the same amount as before.

American, United, Continental, Delta, US Airways, Southwest, AirTran and JetBlue all raised fares, although details sometimes differed. Most of the increases were around 7.5 percent.

For consumers who wanted to shop around, only a few airlines were still passing the tax break on to passengers Saturday night, including Virgin America, Frontier Airlines and Alaska Airlines.

The expiring taxes can total $25 or more on a typical $300 round-trip ticket. They died after midnight Friday night when Congress failed to pass legislation to keep the Federal Aviation Administration running.

That gave airlines a choice: They could do nothing—and pass the savings to customers—or grab some of the money themselves.

"We adjusted prices so the bottom-line price of a ticket remains the same as it was before ... expiration of federal excise taxes," said American spokesman Tim Smith. US Airways spokesman John McDonald said much the same thing—passengers will pay the same amount for a ticket as they did before the taxes expired.

They declined to say whether the increases would be rescinded if Congress revives the travel taxes.

Tom Parsons, who runs the Bestfares.com travel website, said consumers should get the tax break.

"Why would the airlines deserve it?" he said. "They already hit us with enough fees. Now they're keeping the government fees too."

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 011 D 24, containing an area of approximately 707 square meters, more or less, situated in Garapan, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Rigel Corporation, a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors for the Corporation is Ning Ning Li, Shaoli Che, and Shao Hong C. Walker.

The President of the Corporation is Ning Ning Li, Vice President is Shaoli Che, and Secretary/Treasurer is Shao Hong C. Walker.

iii. The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Manuel J. Alvarez.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for expansion of their Iron Horse Auto Shop, parking space for customers' and employees' vehicular and other related operations.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property, including existing structure(s).

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; Songsong Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Garapan, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before August 4, 2011 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT MAPROPONIN INEKSTENDIN INATKILON TANU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106(a) yan (b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku guini ha nå'i nutisia ni intension-ña para u atkila pumalu na tånu' pupbliku siha giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Isla Marianas siha. Maseha håyi na pattida siha gi halum i pupbliku heneråt siña ha na'hålum i imfotmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñun kinentra siha gi tinahguen propositu siha ni para i atkilon tånu' pupbliku. Sigi mås mo'na mapribeniyi ginin i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesin imfotmasion ni madimånda ni debi na u mapupblika.

i. I lugåt atkilon siha madeskribi komu tano' pupbliku Lot No. 011 D 24, kinonsisti årian kåsi guaha 707 square meters, mås pat menus,ni gaigi giya Garapan, Saipan. I kopian i pumalu na lugåt gaigi na gumuaha gi Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni para i rikunosimientu.

ii. I manatkikila i Rigel Corporation, i CNMI Corporation. I Kuetpun Direktot siha para i Corporation si Ning Ning Li, Shaoli Che, yan si Shao Hong C. Walker.

I Presidenti gi Corporation si Ning Ning Li, i sigundu Presidenti si Shaoli Che, yan i Sekritåriu / Tresureriu si Shao Hong C. Walker.

iii. I maproponi na atkilon manigosiu gi as Siñot Manual J. Alvarez.

iv. I manatkikila debi na u kontinua umusa i lugåt siha uniku para i hinangai para i mana'dångkulun i iyo-ñiha Iron Horse Shop, kåmpun parking para i kåstuma siha yan i tumobit emple'åo yan ottru ni mana'achuli' siha na operasion.

I teman i kuntråtan atkilon ha ekstendi gi 25 åñus, yan option para u ma'ekstendi i atkilon gi ta'lu 15 åñus.

I manmaproponi na åpas atkilon gi sakkan gi durånti i tema sigun gi percentage gi appraised fair market value gi propiedåt siha såsåonåo i existing structure(s).

v. Kopian i manmaproponi na kontråta ekstension atkilon siha siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha, gaigi gi segundu bibienda 2nd floor gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; gi Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet 1st bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha tåya' ha risibi tinahguin propositu siha para sinuhetun atkilon tanu' pupbliku siha giya Garapan, Saipan.

vii. I Sekritåriun i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha debi na u aksepta i tinigi' i imfotmasion, opiñon yan testamoñun kinentra pat tinahguin propositu siha ginin i manggai interes na pattida siha gi pat åntis di August 4, 2011 gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONGOL POMWOL AKKILON-UL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) mellól Public Law 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ekke issiswoow ammataf igha e tipáli ebwe tingóór ebwe akkila eghus mereel falúweer toulap mewóól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw Kka Efáng Marianas. Ngáliir toulap schóókka re mwuschel nge rebwe issisilong yaar mwáliili, mángemáng me ngáre angiingi reel ifa meleil pomw kkaal reel akkilon-ul falúweer toulap. Me Public Law 15-2, e ayoor lamal aweewe kka e fisch ngáli milikka ebwe akkatééló.

i. Pomwol akkilon-ul falúweer toulap ekke bwáári bwe Lot No. 011 D 24, emmwel ebwe yoor fisabwughúw fissuw (707) square meters, elapló ngáre eghus, elo Arabwal (Garapan), Seipél. Tiliighil ngáre kopiyal bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Land) bwe aubwe ghi ghuleey fischiy.

ii. Schééschél lessee nge Rigel Corporation, eew CNMI Corporation. Samwoolur (Board of Directors) Corporation yeel nge Ning Ning Li, Shaoli CHE, ME Shao Hong C. Walker. President-il Corporation yeel nge Ning Ning Li, Vice President nge Shaoli Che, me Secretary/Treasurer nge Shao Hong C. Walker.

iii. Schóól aweewel akkilon yeel nge Mr. Manuel J. Alvarez.

iv. Schóól lessee ebwe yááyá bwuley yeel reel ebwe atomwoghaló yaar Iron Horse Auto Shop, me parking space-il gharetta waar customers me schóól angaang me bwal akkááw mwóghut.

Tool aighúúghúl pomwol akkilon yeel nge reweigh me limwoow (25) ráágh, me ngáre e tipáli nge ebwe bwal sóbweló akkilon yeel bwal seigh me limwoow (15) ráágh.

Pomwol tool annual rental yeel nge ebwe bweibwogh mereel percentage-il reel méél falúw (appraised fair market value), me bwal akkayúú kka elo llól.

v. Tiliighil ngáre kopiyal pomwol abwungubwungul akkilon yeel nge emmwel ebwe bweibwogh mereel Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Lands), elo 2nd floor mereel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building me Dandan, Seipél; Songsong Commercial Building, Luuta; ngáre 1st floor mereel Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

vi. Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Lands) esáál bweibwogh mwo meleil pomwol akkilon kka falúweer toulap mellól Arabwal (Garapan), Seipél.

vii. Samwoolul Ammwelil Falúweeer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mwáliili, mángemáng, angiingi me ngáre ifa meleil pomwo kkaal sángi schóókka re tipáli rebwe issisolong wóól me ngáre mmwal August 4, 2011 mereel Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Lands offices) elo Seipél, Luuta, me ngáre Tchúliyúl.

Nation

Debt crisis: Deal sought to head off stock plunge

By DAVID ESPO
AP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON (AP)—Precariously short of time, congressional leaders struggled in urgent, weekend-long talks to avert an unprecedented government default, desperate to show enough progress to head off a plunge in stock prices when Asian markets open ahead of the U.S. workweek.

With the White House consigned to the periphery of negotiations, Republicans sought as much as $4 trillion in deficit cuts over a decade as a condition for raising the nation's debt limit.

But after hours of staff negotiations followed by a meeting of Congress' top four leaders, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid accused GOP leaders of intransigence, adding he would not accept anything less than a deal that raised the debt limit through 2012.

"Their unwillingness to compromise is pushing us to the brink of a default on the full faith and credit of the United States. We have run out of time for politics. Now is the time for cooperation," he said in a sharply worded statement.

A spokesman for House Speaker John Boehner, Michael Steel, responded mildly. "Like the President and the entire bipartisan, bicameral Congressional leadership, we continue to believe that defaulting on the full faith and credit of the United States is not an option," he said in a written statement.

Obama met earlier in the day with the Republican and Democratic leaders - but only briefly- the day after Boehner abruptly broke off his own once-promising compromise talks with the White House.

In talks through the afternoon in the Capitol, congressional aides were looking at an immediate debt limit increase of about $1 trillion, officials said, with slightly higher spending cuts to be locked into place simultaneously.

Another $1.4 trillion in additional borrowing authority would be needed to satisfy Obama's demand that any deal extend into 2013. "A two-step process is inevitable," Steel said, although and based on Reid's accusation, it was clear the two sides had not yet been able to bridge their differences.

On one point, there was no disagreement - time is running out.

Congressional aides labored to produce a tentative agreement by Monday, congressional officials said. Even that would allow scarcely enough time for the House and Senate to clear legislation in time for Obama's signature by the Aug. 2 deadline, a week from Tuesday.

More urgently, Boehner told rank-and-file Republicans in a conference call he hoped to be able to announce a "viable framework for progress" by 4 p.m. EDT on Sunday, before the stock markets open in Japan and elsewhere in Asia, according to two participants.

Lawmakers fear a big drop in investor confidence in stocks and bonds could start in Asia and sweep toward Europe and the Americas, causing U.S. stock values to plunge on Monday.

Barring action by Aug. 2, the Treasury will run out of the money needed to pay all its bills, triggering a possible default that could seriously damage the domestic economy and send damaging waves across the globe. Obama has warned repeatedly of the possibility of a spike in interest rates that could affect Americans' mortgages, credit cards and other forms of personal debt.

"The bipartisan leadership in Congress is committed to working on new legislation that will prevent default while substantially reducing Washington spending," McConnell said in a written statement not long after he, Boehner and Democratic leaders met with Obama at the White House.

Obama appeared grim-faced as he convened the meeting around the big table in the White House Cabinet Room. He was flanked by Boehner, R-Ohio, and Reid, D-Nev. Vice President Joe Biden, McConnell and Pelosi also attended.

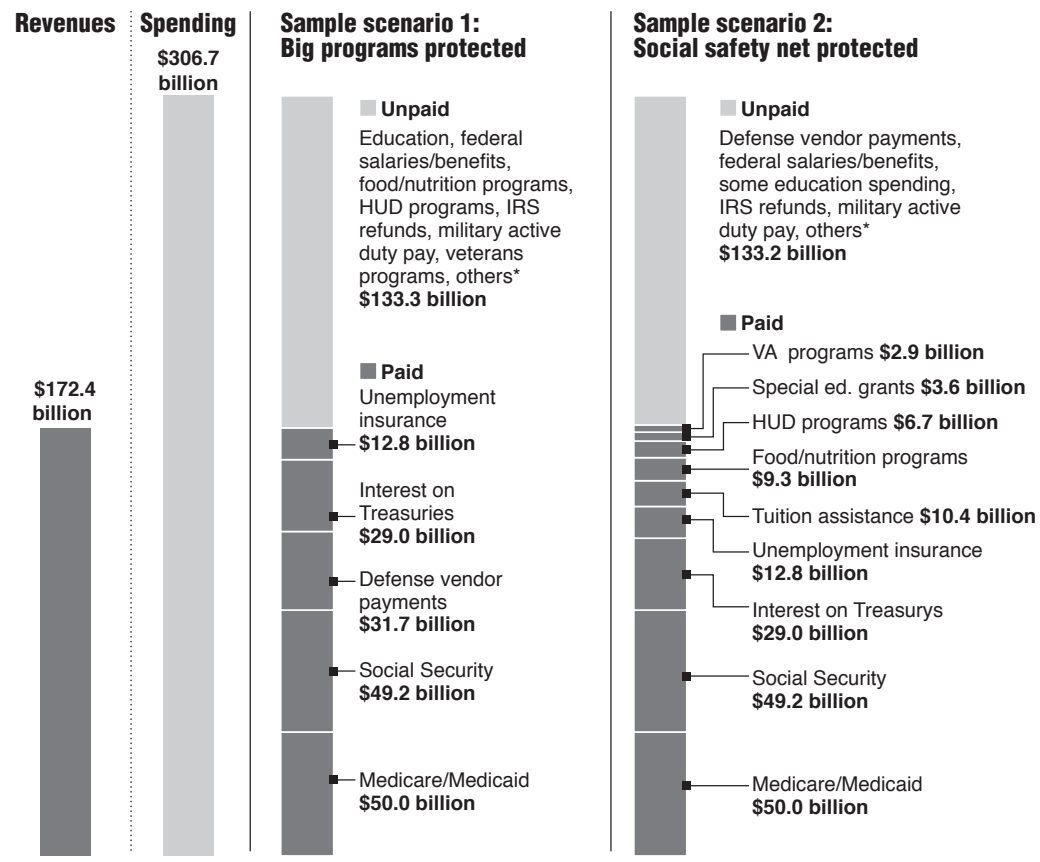
The only aides attending the White House meeting were budget director Jack Lew and Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner, who emphasized the concern about Asia.

Afterward, White House press secretary Jay Carney issued a stern statement: "Congress should refrain from playing reckless political games with our economy. Instead, it should be responsible and do its job, avoiding default and cutting the deficit."

If the ceiling doesn't rise: Two scenarios

A Bipartisan Policy Center projection of what could happen if the U.S. doesn't raise its debt ceiling by Aug. 2.

What's paid, and what's not
Federal spending breakdown, Aug. 3-31


Revenues
$172.4 billion
Spending
$306.7 billion
Sample scenario 1: Big programs protected
Unpaid
Education, federal salaries/benefits, food/nutrition programs, HUD programs, IRS refunds, military active duty pay, veterans programs, others* $133.3 billion
Paid
Unemployment insurance $12.8 billion
Interest on Treasuries $29.0 billion
Defense vendor payments $31.7 billion
Social Security $49.2 billion
Medicare/Medicaid $50.0 billion
Sample scenario 2: Social safety net protected
Unpaid
Defense vendor payments, federal salaries/benefits, some education spending, IRS refunds, military active duty pay, others* $133.2 billion
Paid
VA programs $2.9 billion
Special ed. grants $3.6 billion
HUD programs $6.7 billion
Food/nutrition programs $9.3 billion
Tuition assistance $10.4 billion
Unemployment insurance $12.8 billion
Interest on Treasurys $29.0 billion
Social Security $49.2 billion
Medicare/Medicaid $50.0 billion

*Others include: Justice, Labor, General Services Administration, Commerce, NASA, Health and Human Services, Energy, EPA, Interior, Federal Transit Administration, Federal Highway Administration, other government departments and agencies

NOTE: Spending breakdowns may not equal $306.7 billion due to rounding

Source: Bipartisan Policy Center Graphic: Chicago Tribune © 2011 MCT

Midnight vows make NY largest gay-marriage state

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. (AP)—Gay-rights activists Kitty Lambert and Cheryle Rudd were legally married the very first moment they could be during a midnight ceremony at Niagara Falls that ushered in same-sex marriage in the state and marked a pivotal moment in the national drive for recognition.

With a rainbow-lit Niagara Falls as a backdrop early Sunday, Lambert, 54, and Rudd, 53, were among the first gay couples to tie the knot with the blessing of the state, which last month became the sixth and largest to sanction gay marriage. Couples in Albany, Hudson and Long Island also exchanged vows just after midnight Saturday, kicking off what was expected to be a Sunday packed with weddings.

Lambert and Rudd, grandmothers with 12 grandchildren between them, have been together for more than a decade and had long been fighting for the right to marry.

The couple, both of Buffalo, smiled broadly as they exchanged traditional marriage vows, promising to love and cherish each other in sickness and in health. A crowd of several hundred people cheered as they were pronounced married and shared their first kiss.

"What an incredible night this was," said Lambert, who wore an electric blue satin gown with a sequined train for the midnight ceremony and carried a bouquet of blue hydrangeas. "This was an amazing night. Everything was absolutely perfect."

Rudd, who wore a white tuxedo with tails and white tennis shoes, said she felt "great relief" at being married because now she's "just like everyone else" and has the same rights.

"It feels great: I'm married," she said with an excited laugh.

Mayor Paul Dyster performed the ceremony, which was attended by some of the state lawmakers whose vote last month made it possible.

Lambert said in the days leading up to the event that she had told Rudd "way back that when this went through we won't wait a moment longer than we have to."

In Albany, the state capital, Mayor Jerry Jennings performed marriages at 12:01 a.m. Sunday in the Common Council's chambers. A state Supreme Court judge waived the state-mandated 24-hour waiting period between the time a marriage license is issued and when a couple can be legally wed, Jennings said.

New York's vote to allow gay marriage provided fresh energy to the national drive for same-sex weddings. New York joined Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont, along with Washington, D.C.

AP

Dressed in their wedding attire, Kitty Lambert, left, and Cheryle Rudd, right, hug as they pose for a photo for a newspaper photographer before their wedding in Niagara Falls, N.Y., Saturday, July 23, 2011.

ACROSS THE NATION

Gunman kills self, 5 others at Texas roller rink

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas (AP)—A man attending a birthday party at a North Texas roller rink opened fire Saturday night after an apparent spat between family members, killing five people and wounding at least three others before fatally shooting himself, authorities said. The shootings happened around 7 p.m. CDT at Forum Roller World in Grand Prairie when police said the man drew a pistol during a fight between a husband and wife. The names and ages of the victims weren't immediately released, but Grand Prairie police spokesman John Brimmer said no young children or employees of the roller rink were among them, according to the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. The relation of the gunman to the other people who died wasn't immediately clear.

Retired Army Gen. John Shalikashvili dies

SEATTLE (AP)—Retired Army Gen. John Shalikashvili, the first foreign-born chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who counseled President Bill Clinton on the use of troops in Bosnia and other trouble spots, has died, the Army said in a statement. He was 75. Shalikashvili died Saturday morning at Madigan Army Medical Center in Washington state following complications from a stroke suffered on August 2004 that paralyzed his left side. The native of Poland held the top military job at the Pentagon in the Clinton administration from 1993 to 1997, when the general retired from the Army.

2 dead as small plane crashes in Southern Calif.

CORONA, Calif. (AP)—Authorities say two people are dead after a small aircraft crashed in Southern California's Cleveland National Forest. Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Mike Fergus says both people on board were killed when the plane crashed in the forest near Corona on Saturday, and the plane caught fire on impact. The Riverside Press-Enterprise says the crash also led to a small brushfire, and firefighters from Corona, the U.S. Forest Service and the California Department of Corrections quickly surrounded it. Officials from the National Transportation Safety Board are headed to the site and will lead the investigation.

Asia

China bullet train collision kills at least 35, injures 191

BEIJING (AP)—A bullet train crashed into another high-speed train that had stalled after being struck by lightning in eastern China, causing four carriages to fall off a viaduct and killing at least 35 people and injuring 191 others, state media and an official said Sunday.

It was the first derailment on China's high-speed rail network since the country launched bullet trains in 2007 with a top speed of 155 miles (250 kilometers) per hour, the China Daily reported.

Emergency workers and people work to help passengers from the wreckage of train after two carriages from a high-speed train derailed and fell off a bridge in Wenzhou in east China's Zhejiang province Saturday July 23, 2011. A Chinese news agency says there is no immediate word on casualties. AP

The first train was traveling south from the Zhejiang provincial capital of Hangzhou when it lost power in the lightning strike and was hit from behind by the second train in Wenzhou city at 8:27 p.m. (1230 GMT) Saturday, the official Xinhua News Agency said. The second train had left Beijing and both trains were destined for Fuzhou in eastern Fujian province.

The Ministry of Railways said in a statement that the first four carriages of the moving train and the last two carriages of the stalled train derailed.

An official in the Zhejiang provincial emergency office told The Associated Press that 35 people had died, including one foreign female. He said her nationality was not clear. A further 191 people were being treated at hospitals, said the official, who gave only his surname, Hua, as is common with Chinese officials.

Early Sunday, Chinese President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao called for an all-out effort to rescue passengers still trapped in the wreckage hours after the collision, Xinhua said. China Central Television later said the search-and-rescue operation had ended by 4 a.m. Sunday.

A preliminary investigation by the Zhejiang provincial government showed that four coaches of the moving train fell off the viaduct, Xinhua said. The cars plunged about 65 to 100 feet (20 to 30 meters) from the elevated section of track, it said.

Photos taken at the scene showed one badly damaged car lying on its side by the viaduct and another car leaning against the viaduct after landing on its end.

Xinhua quoted an unidentified witness as saying, "Rescuers have dragged many passengers out of the coach that fell on the ground."

The Wenzhou city government said more than 1,000 people participated in the rescue operation.

About 1,500 passengers were taken to a middle school, and more than 500 residents had given blood by 9 a.m. Sunday after appeals from the local blood bank, which said many of the injured needed transfusions, CCTV reported.

It was China's worst train accident since April 2008, when a train traveling from Beijing to the eastern coastal city of Qingdao derailed and crashed into another train, leaving 72 people dead and another 416 injured.

Minister of Railways Sheng Guangzu, who rushed to the scene, ordered an in-depth investigation of Saturday's accident.

The trains involved are "D" trains—first-generation bullet trains with an average speed of about 95 miles (150 kilometers) per hour and not as fast as the new Beijing-Shanghai line.

China has spent billions of dollars and plans more massive spending to link the country with a high-speed rail network. Power outages and other malfunctions have plagued the showcase high-speed line between Beijing and Shanghai since it opened June 30.

Official plans call for China's bullet train network to expand to 8,000 miles (13,000 kilometers) of track this year and 10,000 miles (16,000 kilometers) by 2020.

The huge spending connected with the rail expansion also has been blamed for corruption. Railways Minister Liu Zhijun was dismissed this spring amid an investigation into unspecified corruption allegations.

No details have been released about the allegations against him, but news reports say they include kickbacks, bribes, illegal contracts and sexual liaisons.

US tough on North Korea, South China Sea

BALI, Indonesia (AP)—Tentative steps by North and South Korea to repair relations are not enough to warrant renewed multination nuclear disarmament talks, the U.S. said Saturday at an Asian security conference where it also took a tough line on resolving tensions in the South China Sea.

Declaring the United States a "resident power" with vital strategic interests throughout the Asia-Pacific, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said North Korea must do more to improve ties with the South before Washington will consider resuming talks aimed at getting Pyongyang to abandon nuclear weapons in return for concessions.

In addition, Clinton laid out specific guidelines for the peaceful settlement of competing territorial claims in the South China Sea, saying recent threats and flare-ups are endangering the security that has driven the region's economic growth and prosperity.

The ASEAN Regional Forum that brought together 27 nations from the U.S., Asia and Europe opened with a buzz early Saturday, with South Korea's foreign minister, Kim Sung-hwan, and the North's Pak Ui Chun chatting and walking casually into the conference hall together.

A day before, their top nuclear negotiators met for the first time since disarmament talks collapsed in 2008 when Pyongyang walked out to protest international criticism of a prohibited long-range rocket launch.

By reopening dialogue, they paved the way for the potential return, eventually, to efforts by the two Koreas, the U.S., China, Japan and Russia to end the crisis.

Clinton told diplomats she was encouraged at the signs of progress.

"But we remain firm that in order for six-party talks to resume, North Korea must take steps to improve North-South relations," she said. "North Korea continues to present a critical proliferation challenge to the international community and to threaten regional stability with its provocative actions."

Since the last round of talks, North Korea has conducted a second nuclear test and revealed a uranium enrichment facility that could give it another way to make atomic bombs. Recent threats against Seoul's conservative government include a vow to retaliate over soldiers' use of pictures of the ruling North Korean family for target practice.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Thai army says 3rd helicopter crashes, killing 3

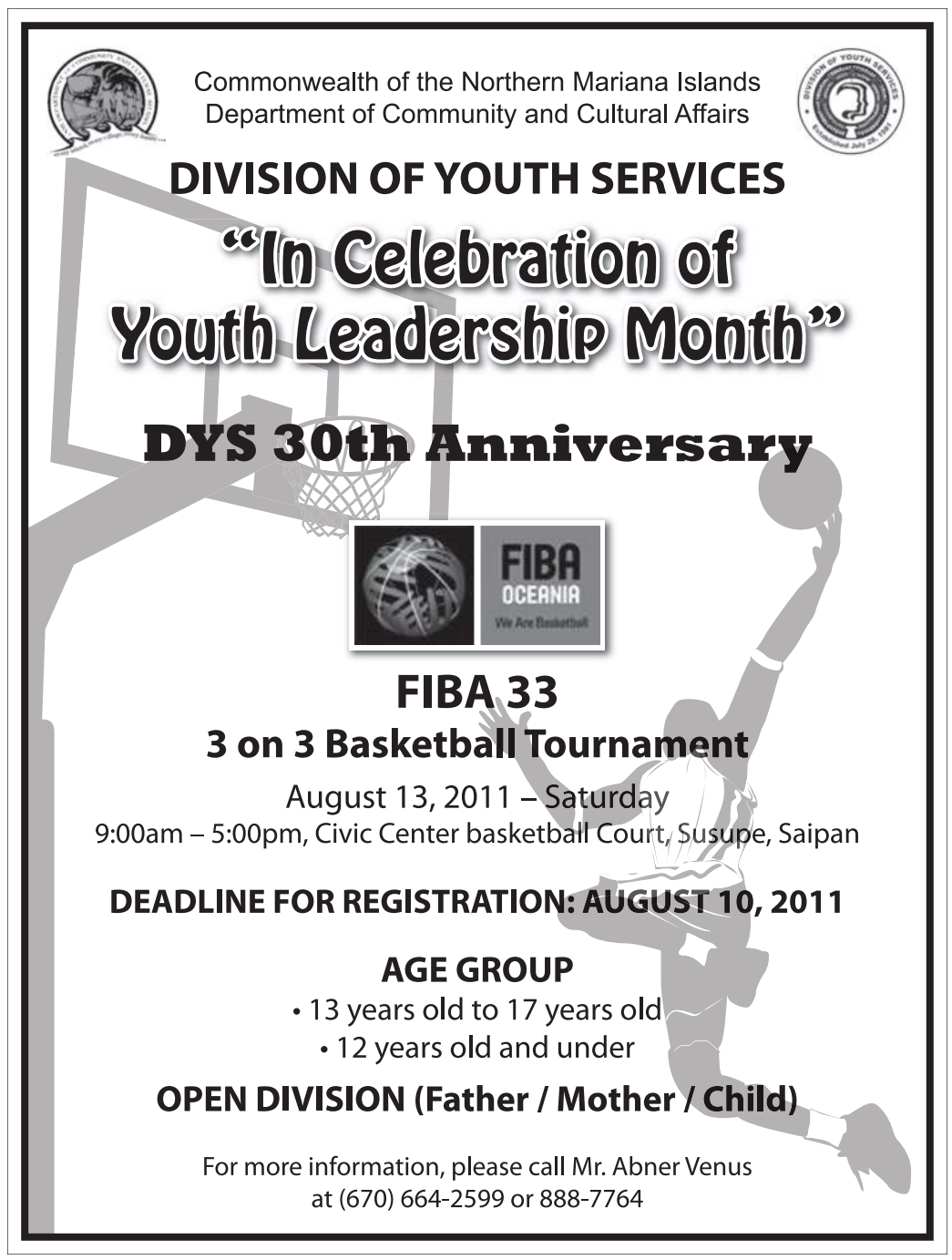
BANGKOK (AP)—A third Thai military helicopter has crashed near the country's forested border with Myanmar in just over a week, killing three soldiers Sunday and bringing the toll from all three accidents to 17. Defense Ministry spokesman Col. Thanathit Sawang told The Associated Press that the Bell 212 chopper went down during a mission to retrieve bodies from an earlier crash on Tuesday. Weather conditions were normal at the time, and initial indications were that an instrument in the chopper's tail which controlled aircraft movement malfunctioned, Thanathit said. Two military pilots and two mechanics were on board, he said, and one survived.

Anti-Taliban group kills 13 militants in Pakistan

PARACHINAR, Pakistan (AP)—An anti-Taliban militia killed 13 militants in clashes in northwestern Pakistan near the Afghan border, a government official said Saturday. Several militiamen and insurgents were also wounded in the gunbattles Friday and Saturday in the Kurram tribal region, said local administrator Noor Alam Khan. Encouraged by Islamabad, tribesmen recently formed the militia to kill or evict Taliban militants and their supporters from the region. They have killed 25 insurgents in clashes this week.

12 years later, China's most-wanted sent back

BEIJING (AP)—The fugitive at the center of a 12-year extradition court battle in Canada was returned Saturday to China, where he is accused of running a $10 billion smuggling ring that dealt in everything from cars to oil in a scandal touching the government's highest levels. Lai Changxing, 52, who was flown into Beijing from Vancouver, is expected to face charges for bribery, smuggling and tax evasion. He will not face the death penalty—as other people connected with him have—in an assurance China gave to Canada to convince courts to extradict him. Lai, who fled China in 1999, had avoided deportation by arguing he could face the death penalty or be tortured and would not get a fair trial in his home country. But that legal battle ended Thursday when a federal court in Vancouver ruled Lai should not be considered a refugee and upheld his deportation.


Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES
"In Celebration of Youth Leadership Month"
DYS 30th Anniversary
FIBA OCEANIA
We Are Basketball
FIBA 33
3 on 3 Basketball Tournament
August 13, 2011 – Saturday
9:00am – 5:00pm, Civic Center basketball Court, Susupe, Saipan
DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: AUGUST 10, 2011
AGE GROUP
• 13 years old to 17 years old
• 12 years old and under
OPEN DIVISION (Father / Mother / Child)
For more information, please call Mr. Abner Venus
at (670) 664-2599 or 888-7764

World

Norway police arrive 90 minutes after firing began

OSLO, Norway (AP)—Police arrived at an island massacre about an hour and a half after a gunman first opened fire, slowed because they didn't have quick access to a helicopter and then couldn't find a boat to make their way to the scene just several hundred yards (meters) offshore. The assailant surrendered when police finally reached him, but 82 people died before that.

Survivors of the shooting spree have described hiding and fleeing into the water to escape the gunman, but a police briefing Saturday detailed for the first time how long the terror lasted—and how long victims waited for help.

The shooting came on the heels of what police told The Associated Press was an "Oklahoma city-type" bombing in Oslo's downtown: It targeted a government building, was allegedly perpetrated by a homegrown assailant and used the same mix of fertilizer and fuel that blew up a federal building in the U.S. in 1995.

In all, at least 89 people were killed in the twin attacks that police are blaming on the same suspect, 32-year-old Norwegian Anders Behring Breivik.

"He has confessed to the factual circumstances," Breivik's defense lawyer, Geir Lippestad, told public broadcaster NRK. Lippestad said his client had also made some comments about his motives.

"He's said some things about that but I don't want to talk about it now," the lawyer told NRK.

Norwegian news agency NTB said the suspect wrote a 1,500-page manifesto before the attack in which he attacked multiculturalism and Muslim immigration. The manifesto also described how to acquire explosives and contained pictures of Breivik, NTB said. Oslo police declined to comment on the report.

A SWAT team was dispatched to the island more than 50 minutes after people vacationing at a campground said they heard shooting across the lake, according to Police Chief Sveinung Sponheim. The drive to the lake took about 20 minutes, and once there, the team took another 20 minutes to find a boat.

Footage filmed from a helicopter that showed the gunman firing into the water added to the impression that police were slow to the scene. They chose to drive, Sponheim said, because their helicopter wasn't on standby.

"There were problems with transport to Utoya," where the youth-wing of Norway's left-leaning Labor Party was holding a retreat, Sponheim said. "It was difficult to get a hold of boats."

At least 82 people were killed on the island, but police said four or five people were still missing.

Divers have been searching the surrounding waters, and Sponheim said the missing may have drowned. Police earlier said there was still an unexploded device on the island, but it later turned out to be fake.

The attack followed the explosion of a bomb packed into a panel truck outside the building that houses the prime minister's office in Oslo, according to a police official

"It was some kind of Oklahoma City-type bomb," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because police hadn't released the information.

Seven people were killed, and police said there are still body parts in the building. The Oslo University hospital said it has so far received 11 wounded from the bombing and 19 people from the camp shooting.

Police have charged Breivik under Norway's terror law. He will be arraigned on Monday when a court decides whether police can continue to hold him as the investigation continues.

Authorities have not given a motive for the attacks, but both were in areas connected to the Labor Party, which leads a coalition government.

Even police confessed to not knowing much about the suspect, but details trickled out about him all day: He had ties to a right-leaning political party, he posted on Christian fundamentalist websites, and he rented a farm where police found 9,000-11,000 pounds (4,000-5,000 kilograms) of fertilizer.

Police said the suspect is talking to them and has admitted to firing weapons on the island. It was not clear if he had confessed to anything else he is accused of.

"He has had a dialogue with the police the whole time, but he's a very demanding suspect," Sponheim said.

Earlier in the day, a farm supply store said they had alerted police that he bought six metric tons of fertilizer, which can be used in homemade bombs. That's at least one metric ton more than was found at the farm, according to police.

Police and soldiers were searching for evidence and potential bombs at the farm south of Oslo on Saturday. Havard Nordhagen Olsen, a neighbor, told The Associated Press that Breivik moved in about one moth ago, just next to his house and said he seemed like "a regular guy."

Olsen said he recognized his neighbor in the newspapers this morning and said he was in shock.

Meanwhile, Mazyar Keshvari, a spokesman for Norway's Progress Party—which is conservative but within the political mainstream—said that the suspect was a paying member of the party's youth wing from 1999 to 2004.

Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg called the tragedy peacetime Norway's deadliest day.

"This is beyond comprehension. It's a nightmare. It's a nightmare for those who have been killed, for their mothers and fathers, family and friends," Stoltenberg told reporters Saturday.

Gun violence is rare in Norway, where the average policeman patrolling in the streets doesn't carry a firearm. Reports that the assailant was motivated by political ideology were shocking to many Norwegians, who pride themselves on the openness of their society. Indeed, Norway is almost synonymous with the kind of free expression being exercised by the youth at the political retreat.

King Harald V, Norway's figurehead monarch, vowed Saturday that those values would remain unchanged.

"I remain convinced that the belief in freedom is stronger than fear. I remain convinced in the belief of an open Norwegian democracy and society. I remain convinced in the belief in our ability to live freely and safely in our own country," said the king.

The monarch, his wife and the prime minister led the nation in mourning, visiting grieving relatives of the scores of youth gunned down. Buildings around the capital lowered their flags to half-staff. People streamed to Oslo Cathedral to light candles and lay flowers; outside, mourners began building a makeshift altar from dug-up cobblestones. The Army patrolled the streets of the capital, a highly unusual sight for this normally placid country.

The city center was a sea of roadblocks Saturday, with groups of people peering over the barricades wherever they sprang up, as the shell-shocked Nordic nation was gripped by reports that the gunman may not have acted alone. Police have not confirmed a second assailant but said they are investigating witness reports.

The queen and the prime minister hugged when they arrived at the hotel where families are waiting to identify the bodies. Both king and queen shook hands with mourners, while the prime minister, his voice trembling, told reporters of the harrowing stories survivors had recounted to him.

On the island of Utoya, panicked teens attending a Labour Party youth wing summer camp plunged into the water or played dead to avoid the assailant in the assault. A picture sent out on Twitter showed a blurry figure in dark clothing pointing a gun into the water, with bodies all around him.

The carnage hours earlier in Oslo, when a bomb rocked the city where the Nobel Peace Prize is awarded, left a square covered in twisted metal, shattered glass and documents expelled from surrounding buildings.

The dust-clogged scene after the blast reminded one visitor from New York of Sept. 11.

A 15-year-old camper named Elise who was on Utoya said she heard gunshots, but then saw a police officer and thought she was safe. Then he started shooting people right before her eyes.

Elise, whose father didn't want her to disclose her last name, said she hid behind the same rock that the killer was standing on. "I could hear his breathing from the top of the rock," she said.

She said it was impossible to say how many minutes passed while she was waiting for him to stop.

At a hotel in the village of Sundvollen, where survivors of the shooting were taken, 21-year-old Dana Berzingi wore pants stained with blood. He said the fake police officer ordered people to come closer, then pulled weapons and ammunition from a bag and started shooting.

Several victims "had pretended they were dead to survive," Berzingi said. But after shooting the victims with one gun, the gunman shot them again in the head with a shotgun, he said.

Breivik

Earlier, the police official who spoke on condition of anonymity said the attack "is probably more Norway's Oklahoma City than it is Norway's World Trade Center." Domestic terrorists carried out the 1995 attack, while foreign terrorists were responsible for the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

The United States, European Union, NATO and the U.K., all quickly condemned the bombing, which Britain's Foreign Secretary William Hague called "horrific" and NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen deemed a "heinous act."

"It's a reminder that the entire international community has a stake in preventing this kind of terror from occurring," President Barack Obama said.

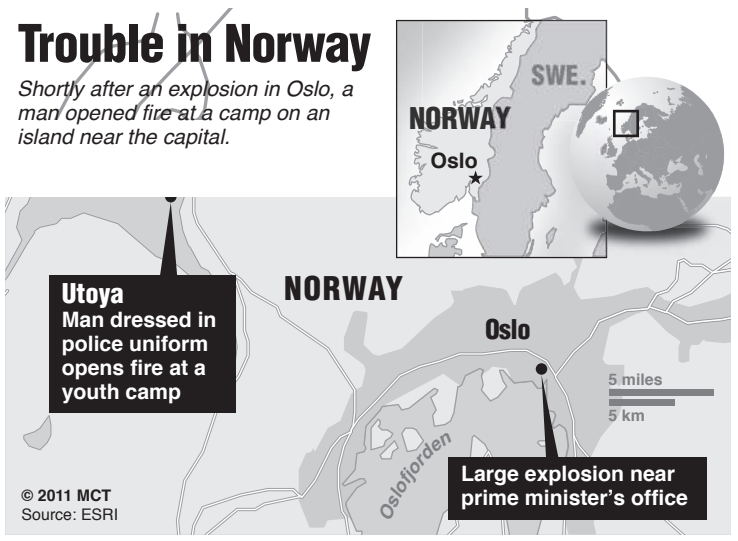
Obama extended his condolences to Norway's people and offered U.S. assistance with the investigation. He said he remembered how warmly Norwegians treated him in Oslo when he accepted the Nobel Peace Prize in 2009.

Britain's Queen Elizabeth II wrote to Norway's King Harald to offer her condolences and express her shock and sadness at the shooting attacks in his country.

A U.S. counterterrorism official said the United States knew of no links to terrorist groups and early indications were the attack was domestic. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation was being handled by Norway.

AP

Survivors from the island massacre board a bus to take them away from a hotel where they had spent the day and previous night in Sundvolden, Norway, Saturday, July 23, 2011.



Health & Fitness

Alzheimer's debate: Test if you can't treat it?

PARIS (AP)—Picture yourself in Barbara Lesher's shoes: 54 years old and fearing you are developing Alzheimer's disease.

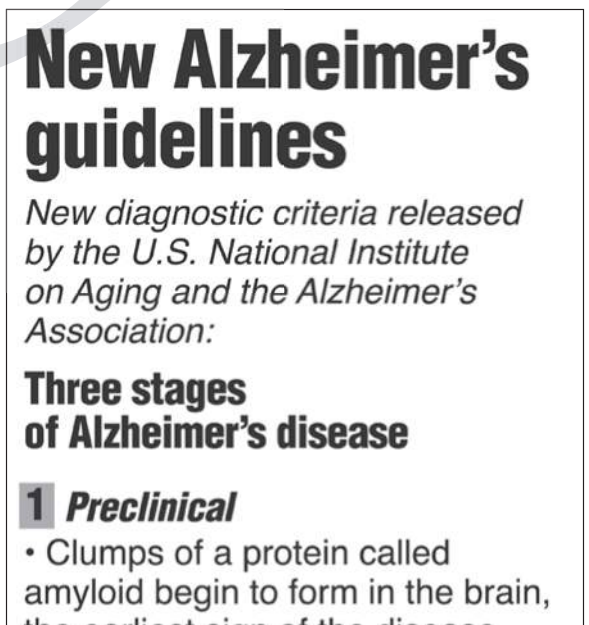
"I don't remember if I had a bath," said Lesher, who lives north of Harrisburg, Pa. "It took me two hours to follow a recipe. I drove to my childhood homestead the other week instead of my own home. It's really scary."

Doctors are arguing about whether to test patients for signs of the incurable disease and tell them the results.

The debate raged this past week at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference in France, where research on new methods—easier brain scans, an eye test, a blood test—made it clear there soon may be more such tools available.

Here's why it's an issue: Many people have brain plaques, suggesting they might be developing Alzheimer's even if they don't have any symptoms. This plaque can be seen decades beforehand and does not ensure someone will get the disease. Many also won't live long enough to develop symptoms.

For those who do have Alzheimer's, there are no good treatments. Current drugs ease symptoms—they work for half who try them and for less than a year on average. Most experts think treatment starts too late, but there's no evidence that starting sooner or learning you have brain plaque will help. Experts are divided.


New Alzheimer's guidelines
New diagnostic criteria released by the U.S. National Institute on Aging and the Alzheimer's Association:
Three stages of Alzheimer's disease
1 Preclinical
• Clumps of a protein called amyloid begin to form in the brain, the earliest sign of the disease
• Can be seen with brain imaging, spinal taps and other tests
• Starts about 10 years before dementia sets in
• Clinical diagnostic criteria for this stage to be developed
2 Mild cognitive impairment (MCI)
• Mild changes in memory and thinking ability, enough to be noticed and measured but not enough to compromise daily activities and functioning
3 Dementia
• Memory, thinking and behavorial changes that impair a person's ability to function
Source: Alzheimer's Association, MCT Illustration Bank
Graphic: Pat Carr
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"We have to look for patients or signatures of the disease at earlier stages," urged Dr. Harald Hampel of the University of Frankfurt, Germany.

But Dr. Kenneth Rockwood of Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, says there is no data "to show that knowing makes any difference in outcomes. Until we do, this is going to be a tough sell."

More than 35 million people worldwide have Alzheimer's, the most common form of dementia. In the U.S., more than 5 million do—13 percent of those 65 and over, and 43 percent of those 85 and up, a rapidly growing group.

Still, half of people who meet medical criteria for dementia have not been diagnosed with it, the Alzheimer's Association estimates. And many who are told they have Alzheimer's or are assumed to have it really don't.

Even when researchers use the best cognitive tests to enroll people in clinical trials, about 10 percent ultimately are discovered not to have the disease, said William Thies, the Alzheimer's Association's scientific director.

"The Alzheimer's drugs don't work in these folks, so there's no reason to expose them to those risks," said Thies, long an advocate of early diagnosis.

Misdiagnosis is a lost opportunity to help. A new medication or combination of medications may suddenly make someone appear demented. Brain fog can occur after surgery and abate over time. Sleep problems are common in older people and can cause profound confusion that can be misinterpreted as dementia, according to research presented at the conference by Dr. Kristine Yaffe of the University of California, San Francisco.

"Some of these are treatable" by avoiding naps during the day or treating sleep apnea, in which brief interruptions of breathing cause people to wake during the night, Yaffe said. Snoring is a big sign. Older people with sleep problems are more likely to be put in nursing homes, she said.

Dr. R. Scott Turner, director of the memory disorders program at Georgetown University Medical Center, has seen that all too often.

"I'm certainly in the camp that screening should be done," he said. Many patients are simply declared to have dementia without testing to see if they have another condition.

"Sometimes it's thyroid disease, or depression, or vitamin B-12 deficiency—something that's very treatable," he said.

Testing someone with symptoms is far less controversial than testing people with no symptoms but a lot of fear. Doctors worry that these newer methods, such as an easier type of brain scan that's expected to be available within months, will be directly marketed to the public, prompting expensive and excessive testing based on fear.

"The phrase you often hear is that the 'Big A' (Alzheimer's) has replaced the 'Big C' (cancer)" as a major source of fear, said Dr. Jason Karlawish, a University of Pennsylvania ethicist specializing in dementia issues.

Recent guidelines by the U.S. National Institute on Aging and the Alzheimer's Association say these tests should be used only in research until they have been standardized and validated as useful and accurate tools.

A researcher using one of these tests, such as a spinal fluid check for a substance that may predict Alzheimer's risk, has no obligation to disclose the results to a patient until there is a meaningful treatment for the disease, Karlawish argued at the conference.

The more symptoms a patient has, the more justified it is to help understand what is known about possible reasons, he said.

Lynda Hogg of Edinburgh, Scotland, is very glad her doctors diagnosed her Alzheimer's in 2006. She is doing exceptionally well on one of the existing drugs and is in a clinical trial for an experimental one she hopes will help her and help advance knowledge in the field.

At a discussion connected with the conference, she said the early diagnosis helped her get financial and legal matters in order and serve on the Scottish Dementia Working Group and the board of Alzheimer's Disease International.

"I am certain involvement keeps me focused and involved in society," she said.

The Alzheimer's Association says early diagnosis and evaluation can bring the following benefits:

■ Treatment of reversible causes of impairment.

■ Access to drugs that help treat symptoms.

■ Inclusion in clinical trials that give expert care.

■ Avoiding drugs that can worsen cognition.

■ Letting others know of a need for help managing medicines and daily life.

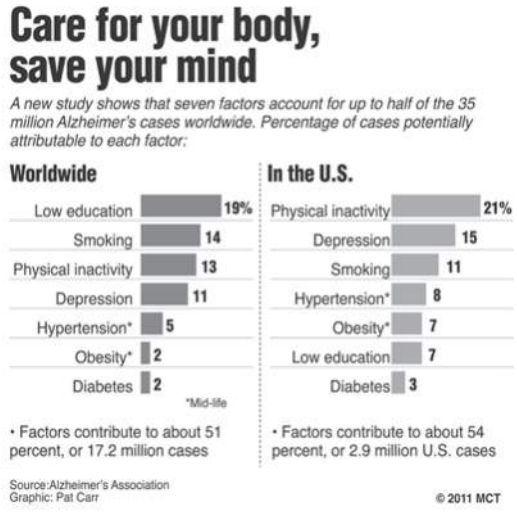
■ Easing anxiety about the cause of symptoms.

■ Access to education, training and support services.

■ The ability to plan for the future.

Lesher, the woman from Pennsylvania, wishes she had a clearer picture of what lies ahead for her.

"Not being able to get diagnosed is the must frustrating thing in the world," she said.


Care for your body, save your mind
A new study shows that seven factors account for up to half of the 35 million Alzheimer's cases worldwide. Percentage of cases potentially attributable to each factor:
Worldwide
Low education 19%
Smoking 14
Physical inactivity 13
Depression 11
Hypertension* 5
Obesity* 2
Diabetes 2
*Mid-life
• Factors contribute to about 51 percent, or 17.2 million cases
In the U.S.
Physical inactivity 21%
Depression 15
Smoking 11
Hypertension* 8
Obesity* 7
Low education 7
Diabetes 3
• Factors contribute to about 54 percent, or 2.9 million U.S. cases
Source:Alzheimer's Association
Graphic: Pat Carr
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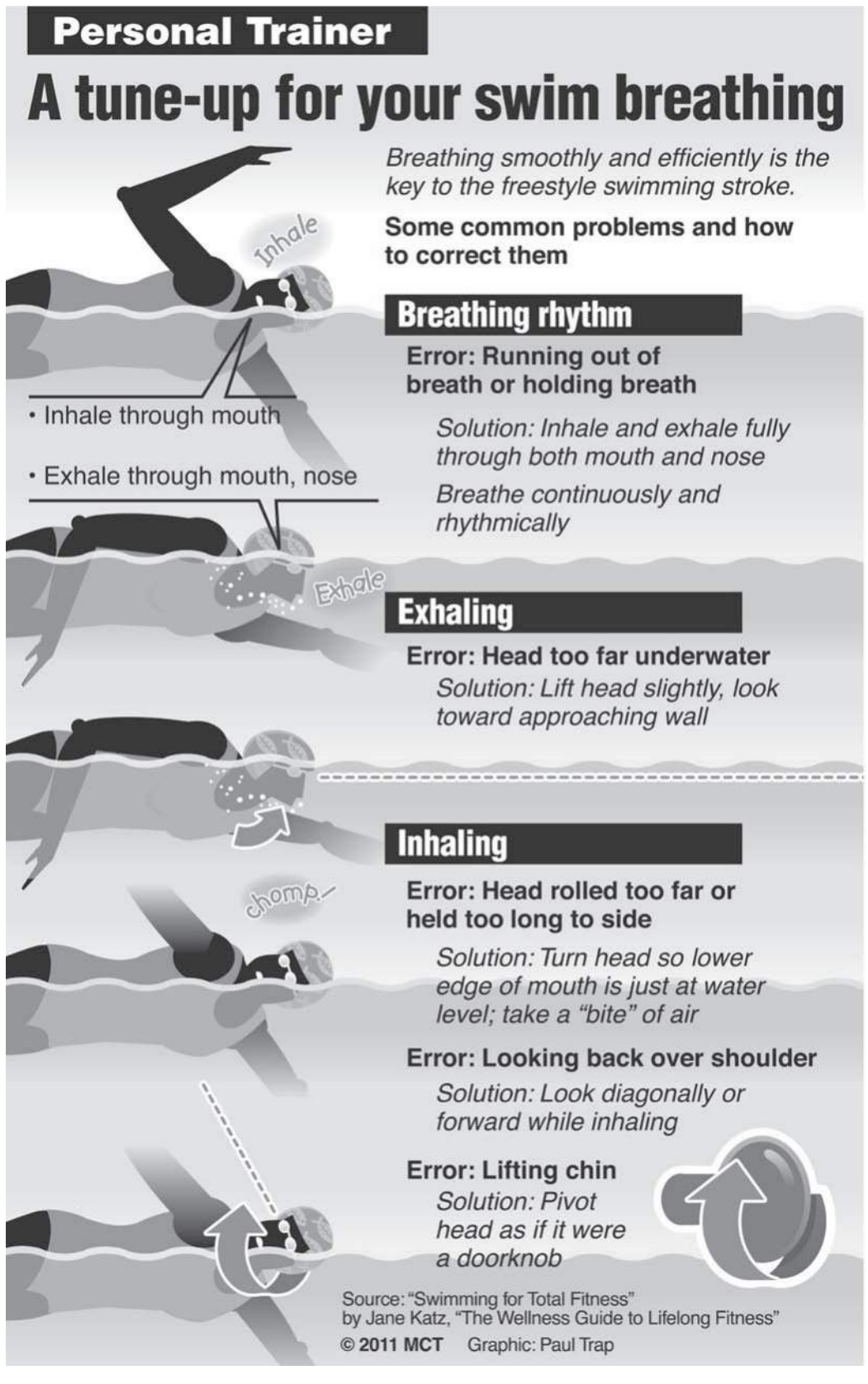

Personal Trainer
A tune-up for your swim breathing
Breathing smoothly and efficiently is the key to the freestyle swimming stroke.
Some common problems and how to correct them
Inhale
• Inhale through mouth
• Exhale through mouth, nose
Exhale
chomp
Breathing rhythm
Error: Running out of breath or holding breath
Solution: Inhale and exhale fully through both mouth and nose
Breathe continuously and rhythmically
Exhaling
Error: Head too far underwater
Solution: Lift head slightly, look toward approaching wall
Inhaling
Error: Head rolled too far or held too long to side
Solution: Turn head so lower edge of mouth is just at water level; take a "bite" of air
Error: Looking back over shoulder
Solution: Look diagonally or forward while inhaling
Error: Lifting chin
Solution: Pivot head as if it were a doorknob
Source: "Swimming for Total Fitness" by Jane Katz, "The Wellness Guide to Lifelong Fitness"
© 2011 MCT Graphic: Paul Trap

Life & Style

AP

In this Feb. 16, 2007 file photo, British singer Amy Winehouse poses for photographs at a studio in north London.

Troubled diva Amy Winehouse dead at 27

LONDON (AP)—Few artists summed up their own career in a single song—a single line—as well as Amy Winehouse.

"They tried to make me go to rehab," she sang on her world-conquering 2006 single, "Rehab." "I said 'No, no no.'"

Occasionally, she said yes, but to no avail: repeated stints in hospitals and clinics couldn't stop alcohol and drugs scuttling the career of a singer whose distinctive voice, rich mix of influences and heart-on-her sleeve sensibility seemed to promise great things.

In her short lifetime, Winehouse too often made headlines because of drug and alcohol abuse, eating disorders, destructive relationships and abortive performances. But it's her small but powerful body of recorded music that will be her legacy.

The singer was found dead Saturday at age 27 by ambulance crews called to her home in north London's Camden area, a youth-culture mecca known for its music scene, its pubs—and the availability of illegal drugs.

The London Ambulance Service said Winehouse had died before crews arrived at the house in leafy Camden Square. The cause of death was not immediately known.

The singer's body was taken from her home by private ambulance to a London mortuary where post-mortem examinations were to be carried out either Sunday or Monday. Police said in a statement no arrests have been made in connection with her death.

It was not a complete surprise, but the news was still a huge shock for millions around the world. The size of Winehouse's appeal was reflected in the extraordinary range of people paying tribute as they heard the news, from Demi Moore—who tweeted "Truly sad news ... May her troubled soul find peace"—to chef Jamie Oliver, who wrote "such a waste, raw talent" on the social networking site.

Tony Bennett, who recorded the pop standard "Body And Soul" with Winehouse at London's Abbey Road Studios in March for an upcoming duets album, called her "an artist of immense proportions."

"She was an extraordinary musician with a rare intuition as a vocalist and I am truly devastated that her exceptional talent has come to such an early end," he said.

Rolling Stone Ronnie Wood said he was dedicating Saturday's reunion performance of his band The Faces to Winehouse. "It's a very sad loss of a very good friend I spent many great times with," he said.

Winehouse was something rare in an increasingly homogenized music business—an outsized personality and an unclassifiable talent.

She shot to fame with the album "Back to Black," whose blend of jazz, soul, rock and classic pop was a global hit. It won five Grammys and made Winehouse—with her black beehive hairdo and old-fashioned sailor tattoos—one of music's most recognizable stars.

"I didn't go out looking to be famous," Winehouse told the Associated Press when the album was released. "I'm just a musician."

But in the end, the music was overshadowed by fame, and by Winehouse's demons. Tabloids lapped up the erratic stage appearances, drunken fights, stints in hospital and rehab clinics. Performances became shambling, stumbling train wrecks, watched around the world on the Internet.

Last month, Winehouse canceled her European comeback tour after she swayed and slurred her way through barely recognizable songs in her first show in the Serbian capital of Belgrade. Booed and jeered off stage, she flew home and her management said she would take time off to recover.

Fans who had kept the faith waited in vain for a followup to "Back to Black."

Born in 1983 to taxi driver Mitch Winehouse and his pharmacist wife Janis, Winehouse grew up in the north London suburbs, and was set on a showbiz career from an early age. When she was 10, she and a friend formed a rap group, Sweet 'n' Sour—Winehouse was Sour—that she later described as "the little white Jewish Salt 'n' Pepa."

She attended the Sylvia Young Theatre School, a factory for British music and acting moppets, later went to the Brit School, a performing arts academy in the "Fame" mold, and was originally signed to "Pop Idol" svengali Simon Fuller's 19 Management.

But Winehouse was never a packaged teen star, and always resisted being pigeonholed.

Her jazz-influenced 2003 debut album, "Frank," was critically praised and sold well in Britain. It earned Winehouse an Ivor Novello songwriting award, two Brit nominations and a spot on the shortlist for the Mercury Music Prize.

But Winehouse soon expressed dissatisfaction with the disc, saying she was "only 80 percent behind" the album.

"Frank" was followed by a slump during which Winehouse broke up with her boyfriend, suffered a long period of writer's block and, she later said, smoked a lot of marijuana.

"I had writer's block for so long," she said in 2007. "And as a writer, your self-worth is literally based on the last thing you wrote. ... I used to think, 'What happened to me?'

"At one point it had been two years since the last record and (the record company) actually said to me, 'Do you even want to make another record?' I was like, 'I swear it's coming.' I said to them, 'Once I start writing I will write and write and write. But I just have to start it.'"

The album she eventually produced was a sensation.

Released in Britain in the fall of 2006, "Back to Black" brought Winehouse global fame. Working with producers Mark Ronson and Salaam Remi and soul-funk group the Dap-Kings, Winehouse fused soul, jazz, doo-wop and, above all, a love of the girl-groups of the early 1960s with lyrical tales of romantic obsession and emotional excess.

"Back to Black" was released in the United States in March 2007 and went on to win five Grammy awards, including song and record of the year for "Rehab."

Music critic John Aizlewood attributed her trans-Atlantic success to a fantastic voice and a genuinely original sound.

"A lot of British bands fail in America because they give America something Americans do better—that's why most British hip-hop has failed," he said. "But they won't have come across anything quite like Amy Winehouse."

Winehouse's rise was helped by her distinctive look—black beehive of hair, thickly lined cat eyes, girly tattoos—and her tart tongue.

She was famously blunt in her assessment of her peers, once describing Dido's sound as "background music—the background to death" and saying of pop princess Kylie Minogue, "she's not an artist ... she's a pony."

The songs on "Black to Black" detailed breakups and breakdowns with a similar frankness. Lyrically, as in life, Winehouse wore her heart on her sleeve.

"I listen to a lot of '60s music, but society is different now," Winehouse said in 2007. "I'm a young woman and I'm going to write about what I know."

Even then, Winehouse's performances were sometimes shambolic, and she admitted she was "a terrible drunk."

Increasingly, her personal life began to overshadow her career.

She acknowledged struggling with eating disorders and told a newspaper that she had been diagnosed as manic depressive but refused to take medication. Soon accounts of her erratic behavior, canceled concerts and drink- and drug-fueled nights began to multiply.

Photographs caught her unsteady on her feet or vacant-eyed, and she appeared unhealthily thin, with scabs on her face and marks on her arms.

There were embarrassing videos released to the world on the Internet. One showed an addled Winehouse and Babyshambles singer Pete Doherty playing with newborn mice. Another, for which Winehouse apologized, showed her singing a racist ditty to the tune of a children's song.

Winehouse's managers went to increasingly desperate lengths to keep the wayward star on the straight and narrow. Before a June 2011 concert in Belgrade—the first stop on a planned European comeback tour—her hotel was stripped of booze. It did no good,

Winehouse swayed and slurred her way through barely recognizable songs, as her band played gamely and the audience jeered and booed.

Winehouse flew home. Her management canceled the tour, saying Winehouse would take some time off to recover.

Though she was often reported to be working on new material, fans got tired of waiting for the much-promised followup to "Back to Black."

Occasional bits of recording saw the light of day. Her rendition of The Zutons' "Valerie" was a highlight of producer Mark Ronson's 2007 album "Version," and she recorded the pop classic "It's My Party" for the 2010 Quincy Jones album "Q: Soul Bossa Nostra."

But other recording projects with Ronson, one of the architects of the success of "Back to Black," came to nothing.

She also had run-ins with the law. In April 2008, Winehouse was cautioned by police for assault after she slapped a man during a raucous night out.

The same year she was investigated by police, although not charged, after a tabloid newspaper published a video that appeared to show her smoking crack cocaine.

In 2010, Winehouse pleaded guilty to assaulting a theater manager who asked her to leave a family Christmas show because she'd had too much to drink. She was given a fine and a warning to stay out of trouble by a judge who praised her for trying to clean up her act.

In May 2007 in Miami, she married music industry hanger-on Blake Fielder-Civil, but the honeymoon was brief. That November, Fielder-Civil was arrested for an attack on a pub manager the year before. Fielder-Civil later pleaded guilty to assaulting barman James King and then offering him 200,000 pounds (US$400,000) to keep quiet about it.

Winehouse stood by "my Blake" throughout his trial, often blowing kisses at him from the court's public gallery and wearing a heart-shaped pin labeled "Blake" in her hair at concerts. But British newspapers reported extramarital affairs while Fielder-Civil was behind bars.

They divorced in 2009.

Winehouse's health often appeared fragile. In June 2008 and again in April 2010, she was taken to hospital and treated for injuries after fainting and falling at home.

Her father said she had developed the lung disease emphysema from smoking cigarettes and crack, although her spokeswoman later said Winehouse only had "early signs of what could lead to emphysema."

She left the hospital to perform at Nelson Mandela's 90th birthday concert in Hyde Park in June 2008, and at the Glastonbury festival the next day, where she received a rousing reception but scuffled with a member of the crowd. Then it was back to a London clinic for treatment, continuing the cycle of music, excess and recuperation that marked her career.

Her last public appearance came three days before her death, when she briefly joined her goddaughter, singer Dionne Bromfield, on stage at The Roundhouse in Camden, just around the corner from her home.

Despite the years of frustration and disappointment, Winehouse retained a huge body of fans, all hoping she would find her feet again. Some gathered outside her home after her death, laying flowers, comforting each other and taking in the police tape and ambulance that marked the end of her journey.

Winehouse is survived by her parents and an older brother, Alex. Her father, Mitch, who released a jazz album of his own, was in New York when he heard the news of her death and immediately flew back.

Winehouse's spokesman, Chris Goodman, said "everyone who was involved with Amy is shocked and devastated." He said the family would issue a statement when they were ready.

Freida Pinto beds new Superman in 'Immortals'

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Freida Pinto is the envy of women at the Comic-Con fan convention. She gets to sex up the star of the new Superman movie in her upcoming action tale "Immortals."

Pinto and Henry Cavill, who plays Superman in "Man of Steel," wound up getting acquainted quickly when "Immortals" went into production. Director Tarsem Singh told a Comic-Con audience Saturday that the sex scene was the first thing shot on the first day of filming.

Singh said it was embarrassing for them because Pinto and Cavill were just told "get into bed." Pinto disagrees.

"How can it be embarrassing?" Pinto said. "It was with Henry."

A tale of battle about ancient gods and Greek warrior Theseus (Cavill), "Immortals" arrives in theaters in November.

AP

Actress Freida Pinto arrives at a press conference for the feature film "Immortals" at Comic Con in San Diego, Calif. on Saturday, July 23, 2011.

'True Blood' cast and crew talk sex at Comic-Con

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Comic-Con isn't a very sexy place, but that wasn't evident at the panel for "True Blood," the sudsy supernatural HBO series about vampires, werewolves and other things that go bump in the night in a rural Louisiana town. Anna Paquin, who plays telepathic waitress Sookie Stackhouse, kicked off the panel by declaring her character is half innocent.

"Then there's the part of her that has really dirty vampire sex," Paquin told a room of more than 4,000 attendees.

Alan Ball, the show's executive producer, said an infamous shower scene depicted in the book series that the show is based on that involves Sookie and Alexander Skarsgard's vampire Eric would be "weirder and dirtier" on the show. He also said his favorite moment of the current fourth season was the "ritualistic gang rape of Jason Stackhouse" by werepanther women.

"There was actually a sense of enjoyment in that for me as well," joked Ryan Kwanten, who plays Jason.

Ball also teased what's to come in the fifth season, including how Eric turned Kristin Bauer's Pam into a vampire, the debut of other supernatural creatures and "a business venture that involves people of both sexes taking their clothes off for some kind of supernatural purpose." As for the current season, he hinted that viewers would see "spirits without bodies."

Other juicy tidbits mentioned during the panel inside the San Diego Convention Center included actor Nelsan Ellis declaring that his flamboyant character Lafayette would date "all four" of the show's leading men and Stephen Moyer acting disappointed that Bill, the 174-year-old vampire he portrays, had sex with his great-great-great-great granddaughter.

Stewart suits up for battle in 'Snow White'

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Kristen Stewart dons armor and wields a huge sword and shield for her next movie. Rest assured, it will not be your mother and father's Snow White.

Stewart joined other cast and crew Saturday at the Comic-Con fan convention for a preview of next year's "Snow White and the Huntsman," an action-packed twist on the fairy tale.

The "Twilight" star told a Comic-Con crowd that doing a sweet, traditional Snow White was not something "I was jumping at." What attracted her was that this Snow White was a bold leader with her feet firmly on the ground.

"Also, I get to have a sword and stuff," Stewart said. "Really cool weapons."

The movie is due out next June and is one of two "Snow White" movies Hollywood has coming.

An enthusiastic Coldplay performs for London crowd

LONDON (AP)—Red lights beamed and green lasers shot across the room. Pink, purple, green and yellow colors shined in a windmill-like fixture. And huge balloons dropped from the air and multicolored confetti burst from the sides of the stage.

It was psychedelic and colorful—two words that also described Chris Martin's demeanor Friday night.

The Coldplay singer led the English foursome as they played more than a dozen songs at the Roundhouse in London's Camden Town.

An enthusiastic Martin switched from electric to acoustic guitar and then to the piano throughout the night, jumping around the stage in sneakers and rubbing his head after he finished a song.

"I love your makeup," he yelled to one girl after singing "Shiver," one of the band's first songs.

Coldplay—who has released four multiplatinum albums and has a fifth planned for this year—performed for hundreds as part of the iTunes' free music festival.

"For 12 years, we had to give away tickets, and nothing's changed," Martin joked. "We still have to give away things for free."

On the piano, Martin was most focused, towering over it like a mad scientist on tunes like "Politik" and a new song with a piano groove that the band had never played before and "might not play it anywhere else."

He was vocally top-notch on fan favorites like "Yellow" and "Viva la Vida," where the crowd continued to belt its addictive hook of "Ohhh's" until the band returned for an encore. They closed the show with timeless tracks like "Speed of Sound" and "Fix You." Then they performed their latest song, "Every Teardrop Is a Waterfall."

But it was the sound of "Ohh-hhh Ohhh Ohhh" from "Viva la Vida" that really ended the night as concertgoers continued to sing it as they exited.

COMIC-CON BRIEFS

Comic-Con readies for 'Cowboys & Aliens' premiere

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The red carpet is in place and the fans are lining up as Comic-Con prepares for its first Hollywood-style movie premiere. "Cowboys & Aliens" will make its world premiere Saturday night at the San Diego Civic Theatre. Director Jon Favreau and stars Harrison Ford, Daniel Craig and Olivia Wilde are among the celebrities expected to attend, along with hundreds of Comic-Con attendees, who followed clues texted to their cell phones to win tickets to the event. Favreau said he wanted to unveil his sci-fi Western at Comic-Con to thank conventioneers for their support of other movies he has introduced at the fan festival, including his two "Iron Man" films. Favreau showed early footage from "Cowboys & Aliens" during a Comic-Con panel last year, whetting fans' appetites for the film.

'Grimm' premiere episode unfolds at Comic-Con

SAN DIEGO (AP)—"Grimm" plans to turn fairytales on their heads. After previewing the first episode of NBC's upcoming storytelling-meets-crime-fighting procedural, which is loosely based on Little Red Riding Hood, the "Grimm" cast and crew promised Comic-Con attendees that other bedtime stories would be transformed into supernatural cases, including the Three Little Pigs, Cinderella and Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Jim Kouf and David Greenwalt, the show's writers and executive producers, said the show would solve a fairytale-inspired crime each week, but Greenwalt added there would be "arcs for all the characters and terrible things are going to happen to them." The show takes place and will be filmed in Portland, Ore. Actress Bitsie Tulloch said the town is the perfect setting for the mythological procedural because it has a "built-in eeriness."

'Terra Nova' debut hatches at Comic-Con

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Comic-Con attendees took the first bite out of "Terra Nova." During a panel Saturday, the cast and crew of the upcoming Fox dinosaur drama unveiled the first half of the two-hour premiere, which is scheduled to debut Sept. 26. The footage featured the Shannon family traveling from an overpopulated 2149 to a pre-historic past where they encountered a giant centipede, band of renegades, plant-eating Brachiosaurus and one hungry T-Rex. Stephan Lang, who stars as the leader of the Terra Nova settlement, flew from Australia, where the show is currently being filmed, to appear at the pop-culture convention. After the crowd of more than 4,000 roared when one human was devoured by a dinosaur, Lang joked there might be "a mandate from the network there will be one eating per week."

Patrick Stewart gets birthday tune at Comic-Con

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Comic-Con fans have boldly gone into singing mode to wish Patrick Stewart a happy birthday. A hall filled with about 6,000 people at the fan convention Saturday sang "Happy Birthday" to Stewart during a preview panel for the animated musical "Dorothy of Oz." Stewart provides the voice of a wizened 900-year-old tree in the movie, though in real life, he turned 71 on July 13. Voice co-star Megan Hilty, a Broadway singer whose credits include the Oz musical "Wicked," led the crowd in the song for Stewart, an idol among Comic-Con fans for his roles in "Star Trek" and "X-Men." Due in theaters next summer, "Dorothy of Oz" features "Glee" star Lea Michele providing the voice of the Kansas girl who journeys to a colorful fantasy world.

Play isn't proper in cemetery, including people and dogs

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I live down the street from the town cemetery. It contains some old stones from the 1800s that are starting to crumble. This cemetery has become a favorite place for many to walk their dogs or ride their bikes. One woman lets her dog run off-leash and her young daughters play tag around the stones. Another neighbor allowed her children to set off fireworks.

I was taught that in a cemetery, people should behave as if they are in a church. It upsets me to see this place used as a playground. This is a final resting place!

Can you comment on proper etiquette in the cemetery?

RESPECTFUL IN OHIO

DEAR RESPECTFUL: Who is in charge of the upkeep of the cemetery? That individual should be informed about what's happening, so decorum can be re-established and activities that can cause it to deteriorate can be stopped. The idea that people have been using it as a dog park, where the animals can urinate and defecate on the graves, is appalling.

Cemetery etiquette is simple: Treat the graves as you would the graves of your parents, or as you would like your own to be treated. This includes no loud chatter, in case there are people in mourning there, not walking on the graves, not leaving chewing gum on the gravestones, keeping pets leashed (if they are brought there at all), and teaching children the difference between a cemetery and a playground.

DEAR ABBY: Why do men's pants come in sizes by waist and length and women's don't? I'm tall, and I'd like to find a pair of slacks that fit me off the rack instead of having to rip out seams. Most stores have pants with the same inseam and waist measurements, with the exception of petites. Why can't women's pants come in waist and length sizes as well?

MITZI IN BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WASH.

DEAR MITZI: Good question. I discussed it with fashion designer Bradley Bayou, who said:

"Historically, women's fashion has always measured women only at the bust, hip and waist. It was considered improper (and unnecessary) to measure an inseam since women were only supposed to wear skirts and dresses. It wasn't until the 1930s and '40s, with Katharine Hepburn and Marlene Dietrich, that it became OK for women to wear pants—but only when measured by skilled tailors.

"Again, for the dignity of women, 'universal sizing' (short, average or tall) was created as the solution for not measuring a woman's inseam. It also costs less to manufacture women's pants in universal sizing for mass production. Pants with an inseam measurement were kept for higher-end slacks or couture.

"While currently some women's slacks/jeans have an inseam, they're primarily found in a universal size, while men's pants are—and always will be—available with an inseam listed."

DEAR ABBY: My partner and I are being married. We plan a small wedding with just family and a few friends. While it won't be in the main sanctuary, we will be having a church wedding in one of the church halls followed by a reception in the same hall. Would it be correct to invite the religious official and/or their partner to stay for the reception?

CONFUSED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR CONFUSED: It would not only be correct, it would also be thoughtful and gracious to extend an invitation to your officiant and his or her partner to attend your reception.

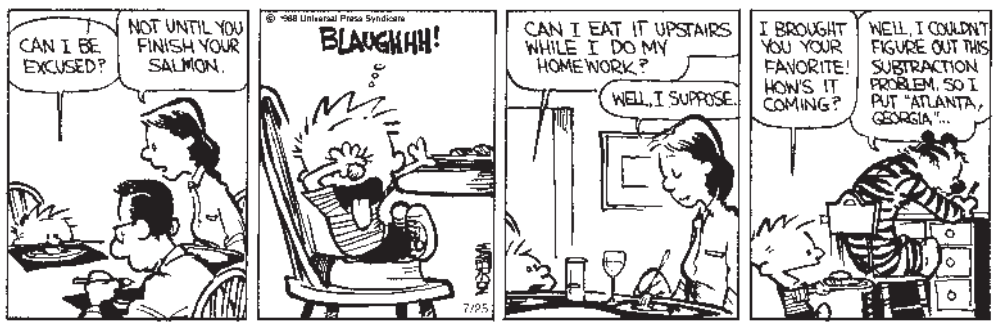
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


CAN I BE EXCUSED?
NOT UNTIL YOU FINISH YOUR SALMON.
BLAUGHHH!
CAN I EAT IT UPSTAIRS WHILE I DO MY HOMEWORK?
WELL, I SUPPOSE.
I BROUGHT YOU YOUR FAVORITE! HOW'S IT COMING?
WELL, I COULDN'T FIGURE OUT THIS SUBTRACTION PROBLEM, SO I PUT "ATLANTA, GEORGIA"...

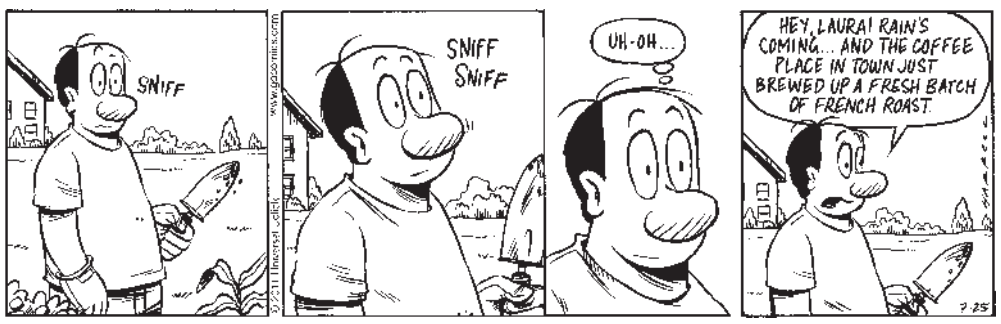
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

HOW'S LIFE BEEN TREATING YOU, HON?
I HAVE A GIRLFRIEND NOW, IRMA!
I THINK SHE NEEDS A SHAVE, HON
I WOULDN'T TALK WITH LEGS LIKE THOSE... HON

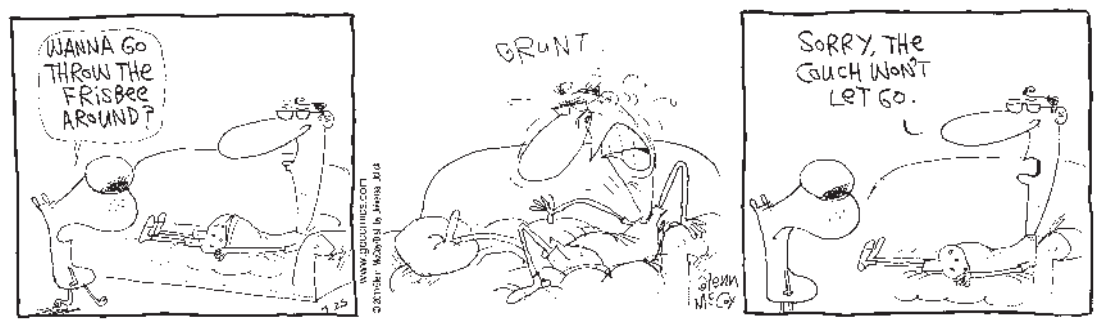
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

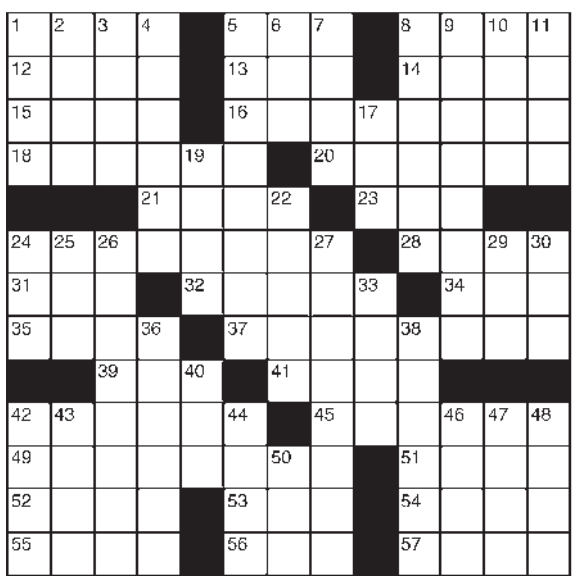
ACROSS
1 Study hard
5 And so on (Abbr.)
8 Halt
12 Volcanic outflow
13 Ultra-modern (Pref.)
14 Sulk
15 In due time
16 Liar, e.g.
18 60 seconds
20 Assault
21 Bedouin
23 That woman
24 Bridge player who calls trump
28 Faction
31 Past
32 Jeopardy
34 Mangy mutt
35 Non-sense
37 Translate a cryp-togram
39 Ford Explorer or Isuzu Rodeo
41 Norse thunder god
42 Slowly, in music
45 Low in hemo-globin
49 Last page, maybe
51 Ocean motion
52 Requests
53 Anti-quated
54 Walked (on)
55 Atomizer output
56 Type squares
57 Harvard rival

DOWN
1 Chowder ingredient
2 Hindu princess
3 Shake-speare's river
4 Hand-book
5 Ingrati-ated
6 Golf ball prop
7 Comical Imogene
8 Hits, old-style
9 Russian comrade
10 Oil cartel acronym
11 Fringe benefit, for short
17 Biblical verb suffix
19 Snare
22 Jaunty chapeau
24 Light touch
25 Id coun-terpart
26 Russian horsemen
27 Stones guitarist Keith
29 Payable
30 Make a mistake
33 King of the jungle
36 Most massive
38 Attractive
40 Energy
42 Leading man?
43 Lucy's hubby
44 Reed instru-ment
46 Actress Sorvino
47 "Ameri-can —"
48 Relin-quish
50 Shade tree

Solution time: 24 mins.

	M	A	M	A	S			R	E	P	A	Y	S
K	I	M	O	N	O			O	C	E	L	O	T
I	R	O	N	I	C			A	L	A	S	K	A
N	E	S	T		A	U	R	A		O	E	R	
			H	O	L	M		T	A	R			
A	R	K		A	L	P	S		L	A	P	S	
M	I	N	U	T	E	T	O	W	I	N	I	T	
A	M	E	S		D	E	M	O		S	A	Y	
		E	A	R		E	E	K	S				
D	A	D		I	S	N	T		U	R	S	A	
I	C	E	A	G	E		I	M	P	A	C	T	
O	H	E	G	O	N		M	I	R	I	A	M	
R	E	P	O	R	T		E	X	A	L	T		

Saturday's answer 7-25



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Michael Welch, 24; James Lafferty, 26; Matt LeBlanc, 44; Illeana Douglas, 46.

Happy Birthday: Pay it forward, and good things will come back to you. Keep things simple and avoid anyone who is overindulgent or bragging. Favorable changes are heading your way, and with a little push you will find that your life is less stressful and moving in a direction that makes you feel at ease. Your numbers are 8, 11, 13, 22, 25, 38, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Someone close to you will get upset easily. Take extra care to pick the right words. Good fortune will be yours if you do something to help someone in need. Show off your talents. A new project will motivate you. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Opportunities for travel and learning are present. Listen to what others say, but don't disclose what you are up to yet. Make sure you have completed what you are working on before you share with someone who may not be trustworthy. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Talk is cheap, but if you are too outspoken or revealing, you may give someone a false impression. Time spent fixing a personal problem will help you resolve issues that have been bothering you. Positive change will develop due to a contribution you make. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't let an additional burden stop you from participating in a group effort that addresses a cause you believe in. Dealing with government agencies and authority figures will require precision and practical thought. Love is highlighted, so put aside time for fun. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Someone unique will befriend you if you attend a promotional function or try an unusual activity. Your ability to stand out in a crowd will help you attract people who can offer assistance or lead you in the right direction. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Difficulties with someone who can influence the outcome of something you are working on can be expected. Don't get emotional when what's required is a little originality and precision. Go back to the drawing board. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): A change of scenery will help stimulate your mind and inspire you to do your best. A change of plans will work in your favor, especially if it alters a partnership or project. Don't overspend due to an emotional encounter. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Your goal is to stabilize your financial situation. Do your best to put pressure on those who owe you and to make your money work for you. A change in location or in the way you do things will help you get back on track. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Relationships can be formed with people who share your interests or goals. A change at home will allow you to develop a service or product that can bring in extra cash. There is money to be made if you take the right approach and diversify. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Spending time at home will allow you the peace of mind required to think about your next move. You can start projects that will help you make your surroundings better-equipped to house your plans for the future. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Look into intellectual and physical games that will test your abilities. You can make new friends if you get involved in fundraising or volunteer your services to a cause you believe in. You can secure your financial situation and make a fruitful move. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't press your luck regarding personal matters. Nagging will get you nowhere and will bring about criticism and complaints. Emotional blackmail must be avoided, whether it is you or someone else using such tactics. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, entertaining, unpredictable, passionate and caring.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

9		2	5					6
	7						1	
			3	6	9			4
		6		2		8		1
		1		3		6		
5		7		9		4		
7			9	8	3			
	1						2	
3					7	9		8

Difficulty Level ★ 7/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

3	5	1	2	7	8	4	6	9
8	4	2	9	3	6	1	5	7
7	6	9	5	4	1	8	3	2
5	9	3	1	8	7	2	4	6
2	7	6	4	9	3	5	1	8
4	1	8	6	5	2	9	7	3
6	8	5	3	2	4	7	9	1
9	3	7	8	1	5	6	2	4
1	2	4	7	6	9	3	8	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 7/25

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

TORTOISES OF THE GALAPAGOS Solution: 10 letters

A	C	T	I	V	E	R	T	E	B	R	A	T	E	Y
N	M	S	I	T	N	A	G	I	G	I	H	G	R	N
I	P	G	N	I	S	W	O	R	B	G	R	I	U	I
M	O	U	N	T	A	I	N	A	I	A	D	D	T	A
A	O	M	I	G	R	A	T	E	M	E	H	E	A	R
L	L	Y	V	A	E	H	W	S	A	D	D	D	E	E
S	S	A	R	G	R	O	U	N	D	L	E	O	R	T
D	K	N	O	I	T	A	V	R	E	S	N	O	C	A
O	E	C	A	E	P	G	N	I	W	O	(L)	L	A	W
M	B	W	E	G	R	O	E	G	A	C	(A)	B	T	H
E	K	L	A	N	O	I	T	A	N	N	(Z)	D	S	T
E	G	R	A	L	D	E	I	R	D	A	(Y)	L	E	G
S	U	T	C	A	C	I	M	E	D	N	E	O	D	N
N	I	W	R	A	D	S	E	L	R	A	H	C	L	E
W	I	L	D	L	I	F	E	M	O	S	E	N	O	L

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Active, Animal, Bath, Bird, Browsing, Cactus, Charles Darwin, Clawed, Cold-blooded, Conservation, Creature, Dome, Dried, Endemic, George, Gigantism, Gram, Grass, Ground, Habit, Heavy, Land, Large, Lazy, Length, Lonesome, Migrate, Mountain, National, Neck, Ocean, Oldest, Peace, Pools, Rainy, Ride, Vertebrate, Wallowing, Water, Weight, Wildlife

Last Saturday's Answer: Quantum

To view THE COLLECTED WORKS OF WONDERWORD, volume 28, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92 and 93 are each $9.95 each (US funds) plus shipping & handling. Send a check or money order for $15 per book (includes S&H) to: Universal Uclick, 33 Inverness Center Parkway, Birmingham, AL 35242. Or call toll-free 1-800-642-5459. Order online at www.uclick.com.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports
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By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Saipan Tribune
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Sablan, other delegates come out swinging as 112th Congress starts
REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK
By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
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• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

high
dry

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Find today's solution in this section

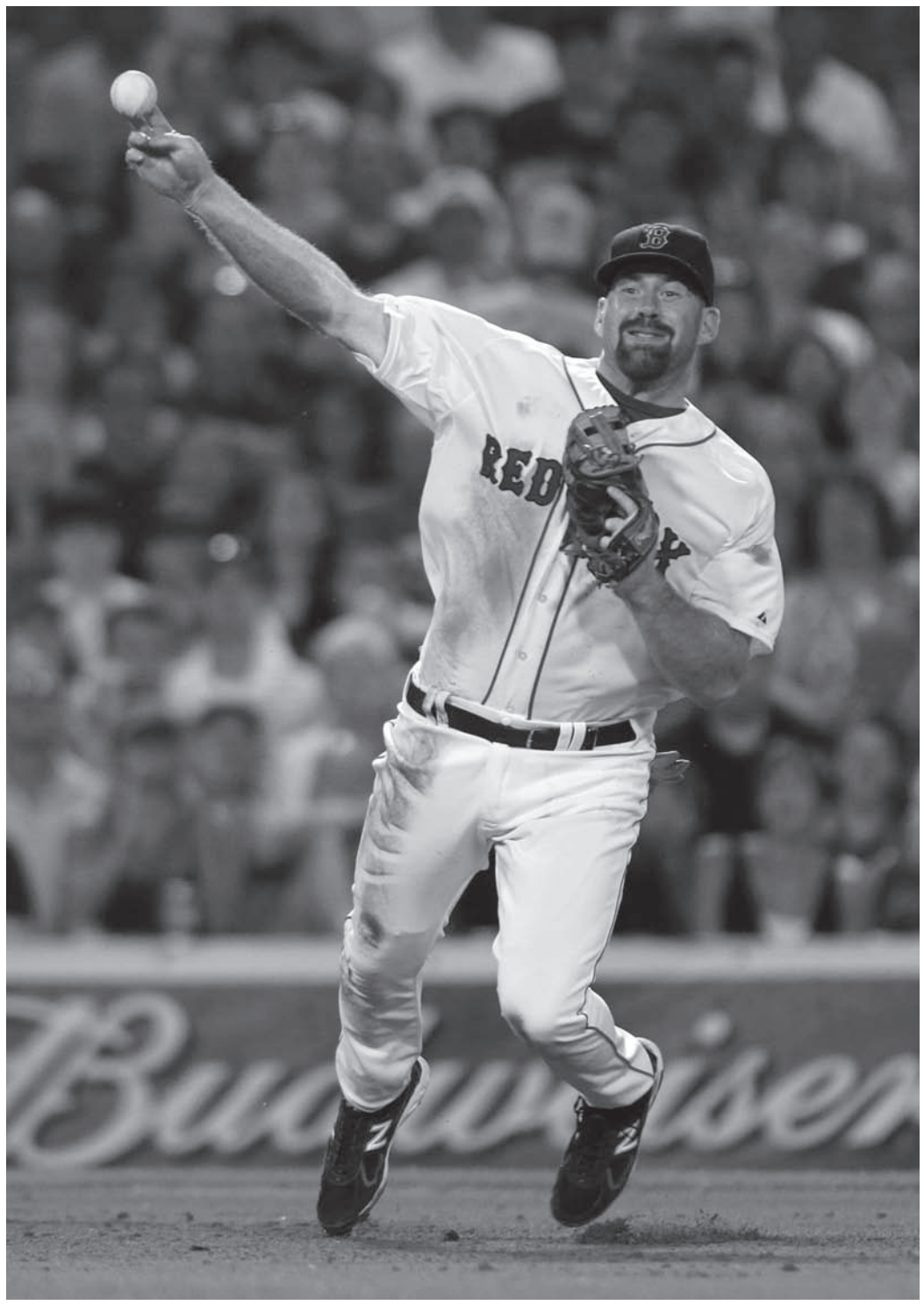
Red Sox send Mariners to 14th straight loss

BOSTON (AP)—Josh Beckett pitched seven strong innings, Jacoby Ellsbury hit a go-ahead two-run single in the seventh and the Boston Red Sox beat Seattle 3-1 on Saturday night, sending the Mariners to their club record-tying 14th consecutive loss.

Terry Francona earned his 1,000th win as a major league manager, the 57th to reach that milestone, and the eighth still active. Boston moved a season-high three games ahead of the New York Yankees for the lead in the AL East.

Meanwhile, the Mariners tied the 1992 team's mark after loading the bases against Daniel Bard, but the reliever got out of the jam.

Beckett (9-3) gave up seven hits, and the only run he allowed came on a homer by Mike Carp. Blake Beavan (1-2) took the loss.



AP

Boston Red Sox's Kevin Youkilis throws to first base for the out on a hit by Seattle Mariners' Brendan Ryan in the seventh inning of a baseball game in Boston, Saturday, July 23, 2011.

Royals 5, Rays 4, 10 innings

At Kansas City, Joakim Soria worked out of a bases-loaded, no-out jam in the 10th and Eric Hosmer doubled home the winning run in the bottom of the inning and the Royals rallied for a victory over the Rays.

Brandon Gomes (0-1) threw two pitches in the 10th and took the loss. Billy Butler singled to right to lead off the inning. Mike Aviles ran for Butler and scored on Hosmer's double to left-center.

The Rays loaded the bases in the 10th with none out, but failed to score. Rookie Aaron Crow, the Royals' representative at the All-Star game, began the inning by walking Evan Longoria and B.J. Upton. He was replaced by Soria, who gave up a single to Matt Joyce to load the bases.

Soria (5-3) got Casey Kotchman on a comebacker, forcing out Longoria at home. He struck out pinch hitter Sam Fuld and Elliot Johnson looking to end the 10th.

Athletics 4, Yankees 3

At New York, Hideki Matsui homered against his former team, Rich Harden earned his second win of the season and the Athletics snapped an 11-game losing streak to the Yankees.

Andrew Bailey barely held on in the ninth inning, allowing a run before retiring Robinson Cano on an easy grounder with a runner on third to end it.

Josh Willingham hit a two-run homer off A.J. Burnett and Jemile Weeks had an RBI single for the A's, who beat the Yankees for the first time since April 22, 2010, in Oakland.

The skid had been tied for the longest current slide by one big league team against another. Minnesota had dropped 11 in a row against Detroit going into Saturday's matchup in Minneapolis.

Orioles 3, Angels 2

At Baltimore, Adam Jones homered and drove in two runs to back an effective pitching performance by Brad Bergesen and lead the Orioles over the Angels.

Jones hit a solo shot in the fourth inning and put Baltimore ahead 3-2 in the fifth with a sacrifice fly. He has four homers and nine RBIs in his last eight games.

J.J. Hardy had three singles as part of a 13-hit attack that enabled the Orioles to win for only the fifth time in 22 games. Baltimore got at least one hit in every inning except the eighth but was victimized by four double plays.

Bergesen (2-6) allowed two runs, six hits and two walks in six innings to earn his first win since May 14. He's 2-0 lifetime against the Angels and 15-23 against everyone else.

Twins 4, Tigers 1

At Minneapolis, Scott Baker pitched five scoreless innings and the Twins bullpen came through with four solid innings of relief in a victory over the Tigers, snapping Detroit's 11-game winning streak over Minnesota.

Baker (8-5) allowed three hits and struck out five in his first start since July 5. Anthony Swarzak, Phil Dumatrait and Glen Perkins bridged the gap to Joe Nathan, who picked up his seventh save.

Danny Valencia homered and Delmon Young added a two-run double for the Twins, who had not beaten Detroit since Sept. 1 of last year.

Brad Penny (7-7) gave up four runs and seven hits in seven innings for the Tigers, who got two hits and an RBI from Miguel Cabrera but not much else on offense.

Rangers 5, Blue Jays 4

At Arlington, Texas Michael Young drove in the winning run with a two-out single in the bottom of the ninth inning as the Rangers rallied for a victory over the Blue Jays.

The Rangers trailed 4-3 when Mark Rzepczynski (2-3) walked pinch-hitter Mike Napoli leading off the ninth. Rzepczynski threw wide of first for an error on Mitch Moreland's sacrifice bunt.

Closer Jon Rauch came in, and the runners moved to second and third on Ian Kinsler's bunt.

Napoli scored on Elvis Andrus' suicide-squeeze bunt to tie it at 4, and after Josh Hamilton(notes) was intentionally walked, pinch-runner Craig Gentrycrossed the plate on Young's drive over the head of right fielder Corey Patterson.

Phillies 8, Padres 6

At Philadelphia, Michael Martinez hit a tiebreaking three-run homer, Chase Utley(notes) connected twice and the Philadelphia Phillies beat the San Diego Padres for the ninth straight time, 8-6 on Saturday.

Pinch-hitter Ryan Howard also went deep, hitting a tying solo shot off Chad Qualls that ignited a five-run seventh. Michael Stutes (5-1) allowed one run in 1 1-3 innings in relief of Kyle Kendrick, and Ryan Madson finished for his 17th save in 18 chances.

Cameron Maybin and Chase Headley hit homers for the Padres, who haven't beaten the Phillies since last June 7. They were swept by Philadelphia in a four-game series in San Diego in April.

Cardinals 9, Pirates 1

At Pittsburgh, Lance Berkman and Yadier Molina homered during St. Louis' five-run fifth inning, Jaime Garcia won his 10th game and the Cardinals beat the Pirates for the second consecutive night.

A day after hitting three homers in a 15-hit barrage, St. Louis won its third straight by collecting 12 hits in assuring itself a win in what many in Pittsburgh were calling the biggest series in PNC Park's 11-year history.

Surprising Pittsburgh—without a winning season since 1992 but in first place for four of the seven days leading up to this series—lost its third consecutive game. The Pirates dropped into third place behind the Milwaukee Brewers and Cardinals in the National League Central.

Reds 11, Braves 2

At Cincinnati, Edgar Renteria replaced injured rookie shortstop Zack Cozart and drove in three runs, rallying the Reds to a victory over the Braves.

Cozart hyperextended his left elbow while trying to make a tag in the fourth inning, getting Renteria off the bench. His two-run double off Derek Lowe (6-8) started a three-run rally in the sixth inning that put the Reds ahead.

Brandon Phillips had a pair of run-scoring doubles, and Todd Frazier doubled with the bases loaded as Cincinnati pulled away.

Homer Bailey (5-4) threw 53 pitches in the first two innings, but made it through six on a 92-degree afternoon. Lowe's bases-loaded double drove in a pair in the second.

Cubs 5, Astros 1

At Chicago, Randy Wells pitched six strong innings to earn his first win since April 4 and Geovany Soto added a solo shot and an RBI single in the eighth to lead the Cubs to a victory over the major league-worst Astros.

Marlon Byrd also homered for the Cubs, who will try to win three in a row on Sunday for the first time this season.

The Astros have lost 14 of its last 18 road games and six straight overall.

Wells (2-3) allowed one run on five hits. He struck out four and pitched around two walks.

Astros starter Wandy Rodriguez (6-7) pitched seven innings, allowing two runs on three hits. He struck out seven and walked one.

Marlins 8, Mets 5

At Miami, Gaby Sanchez hit a pair of two-run homers and the Marlins broke a four-game losing streak by rallying past the Mets.

Sanchez hit his 15th homer in the sixth inning to put the Marlins ahead for the first time since their homestand began Tuesday. He added another homer in the seventh and has three in the past two games.

The Marlins trailed 2-0 when Emilio Bonifacio started their comeback with an infield single in the sixth. That extended his career-best hitting streak to 22 games, the longest active streak in the majors.

Bonifacio added a second infield hit, scored twice, robbed Angel Pagan of a hit with a nifty play at third base and tied a career high with his 21st stolen base.

Diamondbacks 12, Rockies 3

At Phoenix, Justin Upton and Miguel Montero combined to drive in 11 runs and the Diamondbacks routed the Rockies.

Josh Collmenter threw seven strong innings, had a pair of hits and added his first career RBI for the Diamondbacks, who have won two of their past three.

Upton finished 3 for 5 with his second career grand slam and six RBIs while Montero had three hits and drove in five.

Collmenter (6-5) allowed three runs on six hits with no walks and four strikeouts to record his second consecutive win.

Giants 4, Brewers 2

At San Francisco, getting people on base against one of the stingiest pitchers in the National League wasn't much of an issue for Milwaukee.

Keeping them there was another story altogether.

The Brewers had three runners cut down on the bases, including Rickie Weeks who was thrown out at home trying to score in the fourth inning, and Milwaukee couldn't get anything going against San Francisco's bullpen in a 4-2 loss to the Giants on Saturday night.

"You try to do things so you can win the game before you have to get to their bullpen," manager Ron Roenicke said. "We had some chances, people in scoring position. They don't make many mistakes to give games away. They play tough when it's close."

It helped the defending World Series that the Brewers ran themselves out of multiple scoring opportunities.

Dodgers 7, Nationals 6

At Los Angeles, Rafael Furcal hit an RBI double with one out in the ninth inning, and the Los Angeles Dodgers rallied from an early four-run deficit to beat the Washington Nationals 7-6 on Saturday night.

Rod Barajas led off the ninth with a single against Ryan Mattheus (2-2) and was forced at second when catcher Wilson Ramos jumped on Trent Oeltjen's attempted sacrifice bunt and made a one-hop throw that shortstop Ian Desmond dug out of the dirt with his foot on the bag. But Jamey Carroll singled and Furcal drove a 2-0 to the gap in left-center to bring home Oeltjen.

Dodgers rookie closer Javy Guerra (2-0) pitched one inning for the victory, helping send the Nationals to their seventh straight loss in one-run decisions.

Quieting critics, Evans eyes first Aussie Tour win

GRENOBLE, France (AP)—Silencing his doubters once and for all, Cadel Evans will now be wearing the prized Tour de France leader's yellow jersey on the Champs-Elysees.

The two-time runner-up locked up Australia's first victory in cycling's greatest race on Saturday by overcoming Luxembourg's Andy Schleck in the final time trial.

The suspense-filled race against the clock, with just seconds separating the two racers, culminated one of the most exciting Tours in recent memory after three weeks marked by crashes, climbing agony and bone-chilling rains.

This year's edition of the 108-year-old race, with nail-biting tension through to the end, offered one of the most exciting finishes in years—and without a serious doping blight that marred past Tours.

Although there is one more stage, Evans has victory sealed: Sunday's finale on the Champs-Elysees in Paris tends to be a ceremonial ride because launching a successful attack on that flat last stage is virtually impossible.

After using racing savvy to keep close in the last Tour days, Evans on Saturday turned on the juice with his skill as a time trialer to erase his 57-second gap to Schleck—and reverse it, into a lead of 1:34. The Luxembourg rider is now poised for his third second-place finish in a row.

To win, Evans needed to vault over not one but two Schlecks: Andy's older brother Frank also had a 4-second edge on the Australian going into the 26.4-mile time trial in and around Grenoble.

AP

Cadel Evans of Australia strains as he heads to the finish line of the 20th stage of the Tour de France cycling race, an individual time trial over 42.5 kilometers (26.4 miles) starting and finishing in Grenoble, Alps region, France, Saturday July 23, 2011.

The fraternal duo, who had buried any sibling rivalry, had magnificently applied their own strategy to get within a day of victory by delivering a one-two punch of attacks in the mountains that kept their rivals guessing. While it worked in the climbs, the time-trial always loomed as their weakness.

With defending champion Alberto Contador on the back foot after a dismal start because of crashes, Evans knew if he could stay ahead of the Spaniard, the time trial could be his trump card against the Schlecks.

This was the opposite of the Lance Armstrong era, when the Texan seven-time champ often put his mastery of the race from the first mountain stage—and rarely relented. For Evans, victory comes more sneakily.

"The key aspect to our Tour is consistency," he said.

After two second-place finishes, and at age 34, Evans knew his days of possible victory were running out. He and his BMC team left little to chance, and he rode a lighter pre-Tour season to focus on the sport's holy grail.

"This is the victory of a complete rider," Tour director Christian Prudhomme said. "It is the consecration of a career."

Evans' caution came a striking contrast to 2008, a year when he was a pre-race favorite but his race turned to disappointment—and was infected by some hubris. After gaining the yellow shirt that year, his team introduced him like a rock star at a glitzy rest day event, and he sipped champagne.

Five days later, he lost the jersey in the Alps—to Frank Schleck. By the finish, Evans had lost to Carlos Sastre, failing to overcome the Spaniard in a final time trial. That time, the come-from-behind bid failed.

But the lesson had sunk in, as Evans acknowledged Saturday: "No one wanted to know me back in August 2008."

On the victor's podium Saturday, a red-eyed Evans was choked up, holding back tears before hurling the winner's bouquet into the crowd.

"I really can't quite believe it right now," said Evans, who won the world championship in 2009. But the Tour was still his main goal: "I have been concentrating on one event for so long."

The emotional Australian got especially moved when he spoke of former coach Aldo Sassi, who "often believed in me more than I did," and had hoped that Evans would win the Tour. The Italian died in December.

"For him today to see me now, would be quite something," Evans said, his voice wavering.

The 20th stage was won by Tony Martin of Germany. Evans finished second in the stage—7 seconds behind Martin—and was 2:31 faster than Andy Schleck.

Riders described the course—mostly flat featuring two small hills—as quite technical, with a variety of tight turns. After morning rains doused the roads, sunshine had dried them up by the time the leading contenders left.

By the first intermediate time check at the 9.3-mile mark, Evans had already erased 36 seconds of his deficit to Andy Schleck and was 34 seconds faster than the elder Schleck.

At the second, at 17.1 miles, Andy Schleck's lead had vanished—Evans was 1:32 faster—and the Australian kept gaining time as the stage progressed to the finish.

Schleck, in what might've been a tactical mistake, told his Leopard Trek team managers not to tell him about the time spreads between him and Evans as they raced on the course at the same time.

The two Tours in which Evans was second were beset by high-profile doping scandals. This year there was only one, involving a lesser-known rider: Alexandr Kolobnev tested positive for a banned masking agent, and quit.

The International Cycling Union has made a top priority of rooting out doping, with hundreds of tests conducted at the race this year—but Evans said he didn't doesn't know whether the stiffer controls had had an impact.

"I think the best thing I can do as an athlete is to be a good example," Evans said. "Others can make their own opinions."

The Schlecks—whichever one—were vying to be the first Luxembourg rider since Charly Gaul was the first and only winner from that country in 1958.

As second and third overall, they will be the first brothers to share the Tour's winners podium on the Champs-Elysees on Sunday.

"I'll be on the podium with my brother, that's fantastic, everybody is happy. Of course I cannot jump in the air, because I was supposed to win the Tour," Andy Schleck said. "Congrats to Cadel—he fought until the end, rode a perfect race. So did I but only one can win."

Players' executive committee to meet Monday

NEW YORK (AP)—Though a vote to end the four-month lockout isn't a certainty, the players association's executive committee will meet in Washington on Monday.

A person with knowledge of the NFLPA's plans told The Associated Press on Saturday that a vote could happen, "it just depends on what guys feel about what happened this weekend ... but (they) are not committing that the executive committee is going to vote on anything."

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the association has not revealed its plans.

Owners approved a tentative agreement to end the four-month lockout on Thursday. But the players said they need more information before they can vote.

On Saturday, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and players association head DeMaurice Smith spoke on the phone, and lawyers from both sides worked to clarify language. That work is not completed, the person said.

He said Monday's meeting will be "to understand where things stand after this weekend's conversations. No talk of not voting, no talk of vote."

Clubs were scheduled to open their facilities to players Saturday, according to the schedule set by the owners when they voted 31-0 to approve a deal. That was contingent on the NFLPA's executive committee ratifying the agreement.

Obviously, neither of those occurred Saturday, and the league won't begin conducting business for a few more days.

The 32 team reps must recommend to the full corps of about 1,900 players to accept the settlement. The 10 named plaintiffs in the players' lawsuit against the league—including Tom Brady, Peyton Manning and Drew Brees—must officially inform the court in Minneapolis of their approval.

A majority vote of the players ratifying the agreement, then another returning the NFLPA to union status, must follow.

When talks broke down in March and the old collective bargaining agreement expired, the players dissolved the union, turning the NFLPA into a trade association. That's what allowed the players to sue the owners in federal court under antitrust law.

Only after the NFLPA is again a union can it negotiate certain parts of a new CBA. Among those items of most concern to players:

- the league's personal conduct policy;
- drug testing;
- benefits, such as pension funds, the disability plan, and the "88 Plan," which provides money for care of former players with dementia or Alzheimer's disease.

The major economic framework for a 10-year deal was worked out a week ago. That included how the more than $9 billion in annual league revenues will be divided (about 53 percent to owners and 47 percent to players over the next decade; the old CBA resulted in nearly a 50-50 split); a per-club cap of about $120 million for salary and bonuses in 2011—and at least that in 2012 and 2013—plus about $22 million in benefits; a salary system to rein in spending on first-round draft picks; and unrestricted free agency for most players after four seasons.

One item in the document ratified by owners caught Smith and the players by surprise. A supplemental revenue-sharing plan for clubs hadn't been discussed during negotiations between the league and players, Smith said.

Goodell and the owners expressed hope their vote would lead to a speedy resolution to the NFL's first work stoppage since 1987. They called it an equitable deal that improves player safety and allows the sport to prosper even more.

But the players said they needed more time to examine the documents.

Further delays could be costly. Already, one preseason game has been lost: The league called off the Hall of Fame exhibition opener, scheduled for Aug. 7 between the Chicago Bears and St. Louis Rams.

Pistons to offer coaching job to Frank

DETROIT (AP)—The Detroit Pistons will offer Lawrence Frank their coaching position within two days, according to a person familiar with the situation.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the team isn't commenting on its search. The offer was first reported by Yahoo! Sports.

The Pistons fired John Kuester on June 5 after the team missed the playoffs each of his two seasons as coach.

Frank went 225-241 in 6 1/2 seasons as coach of the New Jersey Nets. He was fired by New Jersey in November 2009 after the team started that season 0-16. He was an assistant for the Boston Celtics last season.

Frank did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment.

The Pistons are rebuilding under new owner Tom Gores, who took over the team at the beginning of June. Detroit went 30-52 last season amid feuding between coaches and players.

Frank has emerged as the team's choice after a lengthy search that also included former Atlanta Hawks coach Mike Woodson, a Pistons assistant when they won the title in 2004, and Milwaukee Bucks assistant Kelvin Sampson.

Frank replaced Byron Scott as New Jersey's coach in January 2004 and began his career with a 13-game winning streak. He ended his stint with the Nets with a losing streak that was even longer.

In between, he took New Jersey to the second round of the playoffs three times. The Nets lost a seven-game series to the Pistons in 2004.

Detroit has fallen on hard times since then. Kuester was 57-107 over two seasons as coach. This past season was a dreary one, with the proud franchise making more news for internal squabbling than any on-court accomplishments.

Empty seats were common at home games—a far cry from the days when the Pistons went to at least the conference finals every year from 2003-08.

Kuester benched point guard Rodney Stuckey barely a week into last season and benched him again with just over a week to go when there was friction between the two. The low point was probably Feb. 25 in Philadelphia. Seven players missed at least part of a team shootaround, and Kuester played only the remaining six that night in a blowout loss to the 76ers.

Hoops triumph over Blue Haus

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Dave Sablan and Kelvin Fitial combined for 45 points to lift the Hoops to a 52-34 rout of Blue Haus during their game in the Hoops-Rollers Basketball Club Step-Up Tournament last Saturday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Sablan exploded for 23 points and had five three-pointers, while Fitial chipped in 22.

In the other open game, Salbahe tutored Rollers U16-B, 58-38. Errol Peredo led Salbahe with 17 markers, while Rollers U16-B's Erick Dela Rosa and Daryl Suarez managed to break double figures with 16 and 10 points, respectively.

In other results in the age group divisions, Rollers U14-A soared past sister team B in the curtain raiser, 51-9, while RBC U12's Fotten Gaga rallied over U12 Konflikt, 25-23.

All nine Rollers U14-A players managed at least one basket apiece in the onslaught and Prince Factor led the winning team with 10 points.

Fotten Gaga's CJ Morales stole the show in the U12 division, making 11 points and two assists in the second half, while Konflikt's Kyle Rios and Wilfred Francisco delivered 10.

The Hoops-RBC tournaments aims to challenge younger players to compete at a higher level, while still forcing the more experienced players to work on their half court offensive strategy. Other ground rules are put in place when adult teams challenge youth squads.

The midpoint of the four-week event tips off tonight in Garapan, starting with a 4pm U12 exhibition match between RBC's Fotten Gaga and Konflikt. Saturday's make up game comes next at 5pm, followed by the Happiness- RBC U16-A tiff at 6pm. Then Rollers U14-A takes on Rollers Madness at 7pm and the evening closes at 8pm with Blue Haus challenging Rollers U18.

In related news, RBC is holding a number of fundraisers to help send RBC's U12, U14 A and B, U16 A and B, U18 and U25 teams in Guam for the 7th Annual Take-Care Thanksgiving Hoop-Fest Youth Basketball Tournament, which will run from Nov. 21 to Dec. 7.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Hoops and Blue Haus players square off in the Hoops-RBC Step-Up tournament last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

RBC is holding car washes on Aug. 12 and Sept. 23 and "Smoke Meet" fundraisers on Aug. 26 and Sept. 9. Other fundraisers include RBC's Family Fun Day on October 14; RBC's Mix Pageant on Oct. 29; and RBC U16 and U18 Basketball Tournament from Nov. 4 to 6 at the Garapan Basketball Court.

U12 DIVISION

Fotten Gaga 25 – Morales 11, Feria 5, Cruz 4, Factor 4

Konflikt 23 – Francisco 10, Ky Rios 10, Ecara 2, Valencia 2

U14 DIVISION

Rollers U14-A 51 – Pangelinan 9, Floresca 8, Admana 6, W. Camacho 6, Malonzo 6, Espinoza 2, Iglecias 2, Vivero 2.

Rollers U14-B 9 – Deocares 4, Cenir 2, Vidal 2, Hemley 1.

OPEN
First Game

Hoops 52 – Sablan 23, Fitial 22, Manibusan 3, J. Diaz 2, Ruluked 2.

Blue Haus 34 – Palasio 10, Lauron 7, Galulu 4, Lisua 4, Babauta 3, Z. Diaz 3, Tenorio 3.

Second Game

Salbahe 58 – Peredo 17, Manalo 12, Paraiso 8, Sison 8, Mangali 6, Inos 5, Camacho 2.

Rollers U16 38 - Dela Rosa 14, Suarez 10, Cenir 5, Malonzo 3, Espinoza 2, Floresca 2, Ke Rios 2.

CNMI

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header, which passed through Macau players' feet. Macau fumbled and the ball went it.

Before their big win over Macau, the CNMI strikers dropped their first four games against the former Portuguese territory. In 2006 during the CNMI's debut in the EAFF tournament, Macau beat the CNMI, 5-0.

Two years later when Guam hosted the then U14 tournament, the Commonwealth strikers bowed to Macau twice, 0-2, 0-3.

Guam also hosted the 2010 tournament for the U15 age group and the CNMI and Macau met for the fourth time with the Commonwealth players losing again, 0-7.

Coming into its game against Macau yesterday afternoon, the CNMI was 0-4 in the six-team tournament. The CNMI youth strikers fell to Chinese-Taipei, 0-18; Hong Kong, 0-15; Korea, 0-22; and Guam, 0-3.

After losing their first two games, starting defender John Taisacan promised they will score at least one goal in their last two matches. The CNMI strikers honored their word and delivered not only one, but two goals and more importantly won their last game in the round-robin tournament.

Againts Guam, though the CNMI lost, it played better defense and limited Guam to only three goals. Last year, Guam demolished the CNMI, 22-0.

"Down two goals in the first half, Joyner faked out Guam's defender and crossed the ball into the box to CNMI's right midfielder, Jireh Yobech. Yobech hit the ball into the back of the net in what could have been CNMI's first goal of the tournament, but Yobech was called off sides," team official Carrie Schuler said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

Schuler added on a breakaway toward Guam's goal, Joyner was fouled which set Dakota Hall up for a free kick from just outside the 18-yard box. Unfortunately, the left-footer's shot was blocked by Guam's four-man wall.

"It was our closest game so far. Our defense was good, but Guam found some cracks in our defense. We had many chances to score, but Guam scored on their chances." starting center midfielder Jake Lee said.

LUKA

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contenders. *CM 452 PU* is the Day 1 runner-up with a 29.45-lb wahoo, followed by *Emmanuel* (29.25-lbs) and *Amazing Grace* (28.55-lbs).

Sea Ray sits alone in second place with its 10.75-lb mahi and its 16.65-lb skip jack also teetered past Guam *Magnificat's* 15.30-lb striper.

Joker IV's 13.50-lb yellow fin was good enough for second place after Day 1.

Mahi and yellow fin keepers were hard to come by in Day 1, according to participants.

"I was not out in the water today (Saturday), but from what I heard on the radio the conditions varied on certain sides of the island. Overall, I did see a lot of small boats out there, which is a usually a good sign that the conditions are satisfactory…and seeing that big 420-lber come in so early was hopefully another good indicator," said SFA president Gene Weaver.

The competition concluded at 6pm yesterday and official results were unavailable at press time.

CHENTSOVA

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on Heat 1 with Turkmenistan's Jennet Saryyeva, Jamaica's Victoria Ho, Peru's Andrea Cedron and Daniela Kaori Miyahara, and Ecuador's Samantha Arevalo. Arevalo ruled the heat with a time of 4:21.84, while Chentsova came in at fifth place.

Italy's Federica Pellegrini had the fastest time in the qualifying heats, clocking in at 4:04.76 to lead seven others in the finals. Incidentally, the Italian swimmer holds both the championships and world records in the 400m freestyle race at 3:59.15, which she posted in 2009 in Rome.

Joining Pellegrini in the finals are France's Camille Muffat (4:05.62), New Zealand's Lauren Boyle (4:05.86), Denmark's Lotte Friis (4:06.31), Australia's Kylie Palmer (4:06.38), Spain's Melania Costa Schmid (4:07.02), Great Britain's Rebecca Adlington (4:07.38), and the U.S.' Kathryn Hoff (4:07.93).

Chentsova will take a rest today before joining her last event—the 200m freestyle—tomorrow , while her teammates, Rezne Wong and Grace Kimball, will be competing in their first race on Wednesday and Thursday, respectively.

Wong's first event will be the 200m individual medley, scheduled at 9am on Wednesday. He is on Heat 1 with seven other swimmers and holds a qualifying time of 2:11.81. Georgia's Irakli Bolkvadze owns the fastest qualifying time on Heat 1 with his 2:13.91. Others on Wong's heat are Albania's Edwin Angjeli (2:09.30), Andorra's Hociane Haciane, Morocco's Morad Berrada (2:07.28), Slovakia's Pavol Jelenak (2:07.97), El Salvador's Rafael Ferracuti (2:09.35), and Fiji's Paul Elaisa (2:22.24).

Kimball's first race is the 100m freestyle race and she is on Heat 2 with seven others. The 15-year-old swimmer's qualifying time in the 100m freestyle sprint is 1:08.09. She will be racing against the Cook Island's Celeste Brown (1:06.00), Tanzania's Gouri Kotecha (1:05.10), Senegal's Marema Faye (1:04.25), Monaco's Amelie Trinquier (1:05.04), Tanzania's Magdalena Moshi (1:05.20), Tahiti's Kuheilani Snow (1:06.50), and Palau's Keesha Keane (1:08.45).

Kimball's second and last race will be the 50m freestyle event this Saturday, two days after Wong competes in the 200m breaststroke.

WINGS

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In contrast, Adonis Macoto and Noel Delos Santos gave Wings Travel a good start, combining for 10 markers in the first period to lift their team to a 19-10 advantage.

Wings Travel's stretched the lead to double digits in the second period, as other players stepped up. Then the advantaged ballooned to as high as 24 points in the third quarter, as Cisco Cruz muscled his way in the paint and hit nine of his 12 points in that period.

Inchcape made one final rally in the fourth quarter behind the hot-shooting of Gilbert Miranda and managed to move within 10 on two occasions. However, baskets from Mike Cruz and Nate Mateo and four free throws in the homestretch saved the day for Wings Travel.

Mateo top-scored for Wings Travel with 14 points, while Macoto and Cruz added 13 and 12, respectively.

FGC/Fong's Bakery 83, N.V.M. 67

In Friday's curtain-raiser, FGC/Fong's Bakery routed N.V.M., 83-67.

Anjo Ferrer and Jason Bahillo teamed up in FGC/Fong's Bakery's 16-point victory in the Pool B game, firing 21 and 18 points, respectively.

N.V.M. had a slim lid at the break, 28-27, and lost it when FGC/Fong's Bakery outgunned the former in the third period, 30-15. Ferrer and Bahillo led the rally, hitting two triples each and giving FGC/Fong's Bakery a 57-43 lead, entering the final canto.

FGC/Fong's Bakery never looked back from thereon.

Fresco Saipan 84, Cell Pro 62

In Pool C, Fresco Saipan also had an easy win, whipping Cell Pro, 84-62.

A 23-11 start was all it took for Fresco Saipan to keep its unbeaten record in five games. Cell Pro dropped to a 1-2 card.

Ichitaro Faisao paced Fresco Saipan with 20 points, while Mike Ecleva and Angelo Hernaez chipped in 14 apiece.

After leading by 12 in the first period, Fresco Saipan broke the game wide open in the second canto, as it held Cell Pro to five points for a huge 46-16 advantage.

FRIDAY
First Game

FGC/Fong's Bakery 83 – Ferrer 21, Bahillo 18, Cadag 11, Rollon 9, Danipog 8, Guerrero 6, Tenepere 2, Sevilla 2, Faustino 2.

N.V.M. 67 – Catalla 16, Jr. Mina 16, Metran 11, Montano 8, Benavente 5, Ortiz 3, Rabauliman 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-11, 27-28, 51-43, 83-67.

Second Game

Fresco Saipan 84 – Faisao 20, Eclevia 14, Hernaez 14, Camacho 8, Concepcion 4, Santos 4, Cabanas 3, Chen 3.

Cell Pro 62 – Itaas 24, P. Norita 7, Tibayan 7, Dulfo 6, Loste 4, J. Norita 2. Herrera 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-11, 46-16, 69-43, 84-62.

SATURDAY

Wings Travel 80 – Mateo 14, Macoto 13, C. Cruz 12, Saturno 10, Yalung 7, M. Cruz 6, Verano 2.

Inchcape 68 – Miranda 20, Bugay 13, Del Rosario 6, Marchadesh 6, Buniag 4, Guinto 4, Buenabajo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-10, 40-21, 62-39, 80-68.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	61	37	.622	–
New York	58	40	.592	3
Tampa Bay	52	47	.525	9 1/2
Toronto	50	51	.495	12 1/2
Baltimore	40	57	.412	20 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	53	47	.530	–
Cleveland	51	47	.520	1
Chicago	48	51	.485	4 1/2
Minnesota	47	53	.470	6
Kansas City	42	58	.420	11

West Division

Texas	58	43	.574	–
Los Angeles	54	47	.535	4
Oakland	44	56	.440	13 1/2
Seattle	43	57	.430	14 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	63	36	.636	–
Atlanta	59	42	.584	5
New York	50	50	.500	13 1/2
Washington	49	51	.490	14 1/2
Florida	48	53	.475	16

Central Division

St. Louis	53	47	.530	–
Milwaukee	54	48	.529	–
Pittsburgh	51	47	.520	1
Cincinnati	49	51	.490	4
Chicago	41	60	.406	12 1/2
Houston	33	67	.330	20

West Division

San Francisco	58	43	.574	–
Arizona	54	47	.535	4
Colorado	48	53	.475	10
Los Angeles	44	56	.440	13 1/2
San Diego	44	57	.436	14

Yesterday's Games

Oakland 4, N.Y. Yankees 3
Minnesota 4, Detroit 1
Baltimore 3, L.A. Angels 2
Chicago White Sox at Cleveland, ppd., rain
Boston 3, Seattle 1
Kansas City 5, Tampa Bay 4, 10 innings
Texas 5, Toronto 4
Chicago Cubs 5, Houston 1
Cincinnati 11, Atlanta 2
Philadelphia 8, San Diego 6
St. Louis 9, Pittsburgh 1
Florida 8, N.Y. Mets 5
Arizona 12, Colorado 3
San Francisco 4, Milwaukee 2
L.A. Dodgers 7, Washington 6

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weekend Sports

Athletes compete in off-island tournaments

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

With major local competitions in off-season, CNMI athletes headed out of Saipan to participate in three big tournaments.

In Japan, Mieko Carey joined the Kaike Triathlon and placed second in the women's division with a record time of nine hours, 50 minutes, and 49 seconds, which is faster than her 2010 time of 9:56:38.

Carey was in the lead after the 145-kilometer bike race, but lost it in the 15K mark of the marathon due to dehydration. She went on to finish 36th overall among more than 800 finishers and placed better than her 43rd ranking last year.

In Taipei, Taiwan, the CNMI U15 National Team completed its round-robin assignments in the 2011 East Asian Football Federation U15 Youth Tournament and made it to the win column via a 2-1 triumph over Macau.

The CNMI youth strikers dropped their first four games, failing to score against Chinese-Taipei, Hong Kong, Korea, and Guam before going all out against Macau and winning their last game in the round-robin tournament.

Before the tournament in Taipei, the Commonwealth bets were in Japan and played three exhibition games there.

The last to leave Saipan were swimmers Rezne Wong, Victoria Chentsova, and Grace Kimball. The three swimmers will be competing in the 14th FINA World Championship at the Shanghai Oriental Sports Center in Shanghai, China.

Chentsova was the first one to see action for the CNMI in the biennial competition, as she swam in the 400m freestyle qualifying heat yesterday.

Wong and Kimball will be participating in their respective races this Wednesday and Thursday, respectively.

In tennis, Ji Hoon Heo, who had been off-island for more than a year, studying at the Hawaii Pacific University, is now in Europe for several Europe Futures events. He competed in Europe Futures in Austria and Finland and is heading to Germany and Slovakia next week.

Back in local events, the 2011 Saipan Soccer School Futsal League kicked off last week with 16 teams competing in the inaugural event at the TSL Sports Complex.

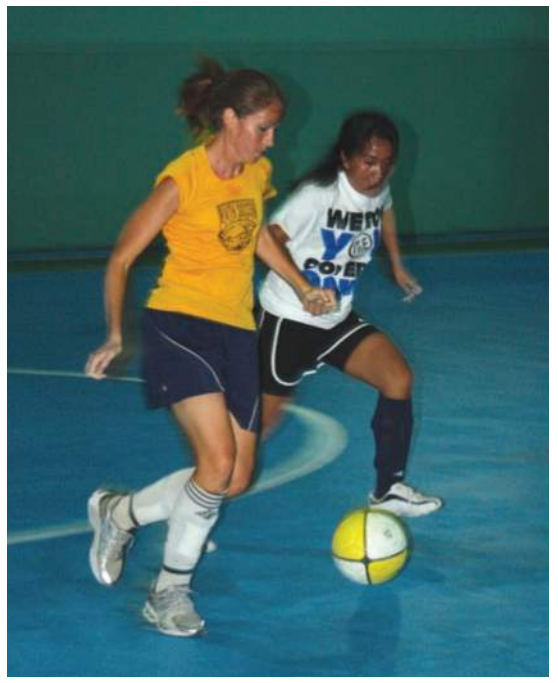
The men's division has Docomo, Wild Bill's, Thundercats, IT&E Men, Mellow Yellow, Go Green, Red Inter, and Korean Futsal Team. Thai Team, Mellow Yellow, IT&E Blossom, Red Team, Shirley's A and B, IT&E Awesome, and Kulet's Team are entered in the women's division.

In basketball, the 2011 TSL Women's Summer Basketball League completed its three-round robin regular season with Party Rockers leading the four-team field with their 8-1 record. Other squads entered in the women's league are Aye Par Battay, Mix-A-Lot, and the Lazy Buttsss.

Still in basketball, the Blue Haus caging continued with its regular season games at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Mix-A-Lot player (orange uniform) fight three Lazy Buttsss players in the rebound play during their game in the TSL women's caging at the TSL Sports Complex last week.

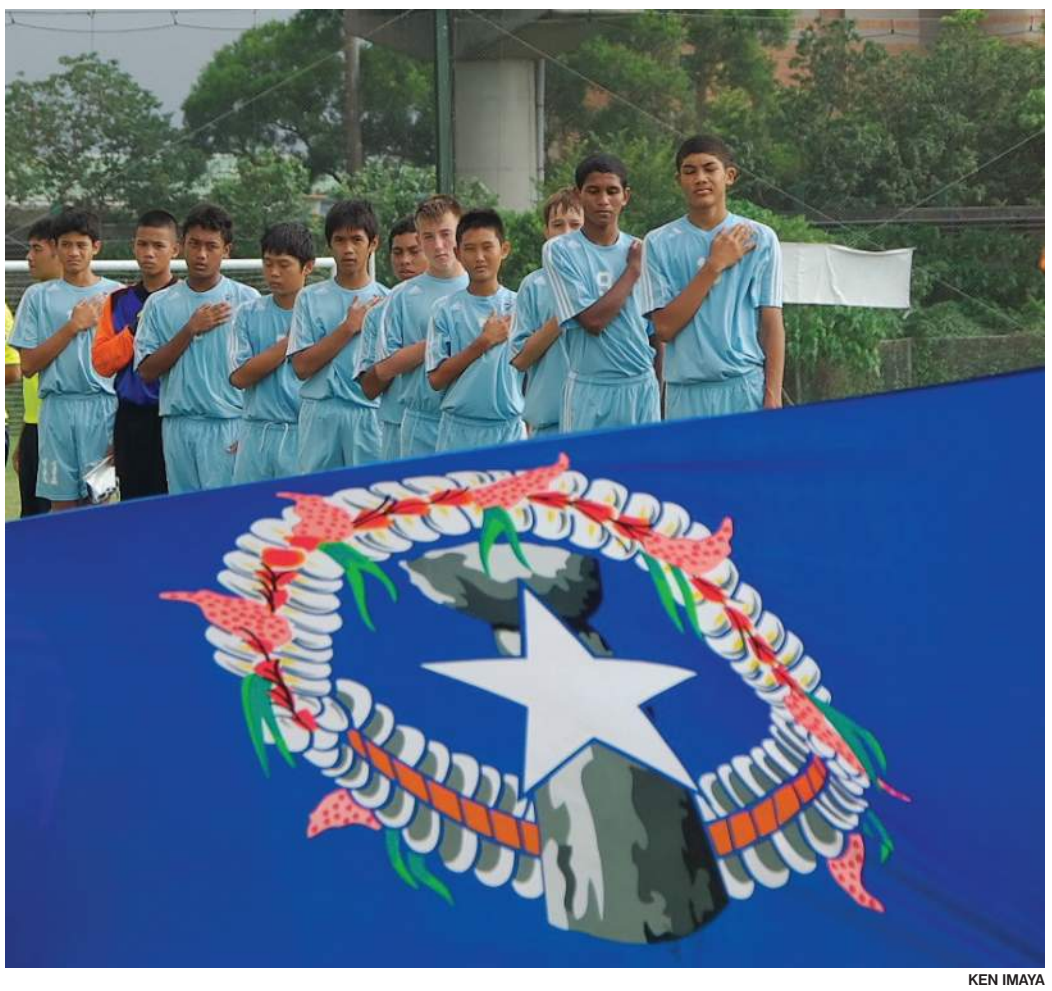
ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Wings Travel's Nate Mateo drives against Inchcape's Matt Buenabajo during their game in the Blue Haus caging last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mellow Yellow, left, and IT&E Awesome players in action during the opening of the 2001 Saipan Soccer School Futsal League last week at the TSL Sports Complex

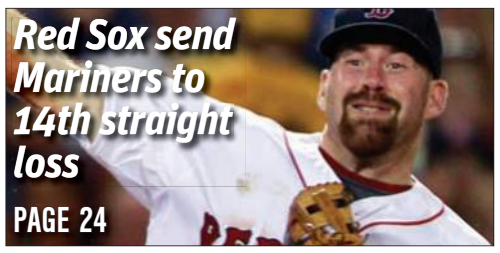
ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Go Green, left, and Korean Futsal Team players battle for the ball during the men's division game in the 2001 Saipan Soccer School Futsal League last week at the TSL Sports Complex.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Mieko Carey, second left, runs to the finish line of the Kaike Triathlon with her family members.



KEN IMAYA
Members of the CNMI U15 National Team sing the Commonwealth's anthem before their game against Hong Kong in the 2011 East Asian Football Federation U15 Youth Tournament in Taiwan.

KEN IMAYA
The starters of the CNMI U15 National Team pose for a group photo before their game against Hong Kong in the 2011 East Asian Football Federation U15 Youth Tournament in Taiwan.



Saipan Tribune
Sports

CNMI posts historic win vs Macau

KEN IMAYA
The CNMI's Jehn Joyner, second left, seen here chasing the ball during their game against Chinese Taipei at the Taipei Municipal Stadium in Taiwan, last Monday, scored the twin goals in their 2-1 win over Macau yesterday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI U15 National Team made history in the 2011 East Asian Football Federation U15 Youth Tournament after winning over Macau, 2-1, yesterday at the Taipei Municipal Stadium.

The victory was the CNMI's first in EAFF-sanctioned competitions and it was also the first time that the Commonwealth bets scored in the federation's youth tournament since they joined the 2006 U14 Youth Festival in China.

Jehn Joyner logged both goals for the CNMI and they came off headers. Joyner scored the header in the first half from a good pass and cross by Jirech Yobech. In the second half, Dakota Hall hit a corner kick and then Joyner made the

See CNMI on Page 26

Chentsova completes 400m race in Shanghai

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Victoria Chentsova debuted in the 14th FINA World Championship yesterday, finishing the 400m freestyle race at the Shanghai Oriental Sports Center in Shanghai, China.

The Commonwealth swimmer timed in at five minutes, 18.67 seconds in the 400m freestyle swim, more than two second behind her personal best time of 5:16.62.

The 13-year-old swimmer, the youngest among 38 entries in the 400m freestyle race, was

See CHENTSOVA on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Victoria Chentsova, seen here in a local race in April 2011, competed in the 400m freestyle qualifying race in the 14th FINA World Championship yesterday at the Shanghai Oriental Sports Center in Shanghai, China.

Wings Travel hands Inchcape first loss

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Wings Travel snapped Inchcape's winning run in the 2011 Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League after notching an 80-68 victory on Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Wings Travel improved to a 3-2 record in Pool A for second place behind Inchcape, which still leads the seven-team field despite absorbing its first loss in five games.

Inchcape failed to extend its winning streak to five when it scored only 10 points in the opening quarter and played catch up most of the way.

See WINGS on Page 26

Wings Travel's Cisco Cruz challenges the defense of Inchcape's Teddy Bugay during their game in the Blue Haus caging Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Luka and Ben's 420-lb marlin leads Day 1

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Luka and Ben under captain Rick George and crew members Philip and Mel Adan and Steve Igisiar landed a 420-lb blue marlin before lunchtime Saturday to take the lead in Day 1 of the Saipan Fishermen's Association 27th International Fishing Tournament.

Luka and Ben pulled into the Smiling Cove weigh station past 10am on Saturday to drop their monster in the bank and headed back to the sea.

Then about an hour before Saturday's 6pm deadline, *Madda Flyer* of captain Lino Tenorio, senator Luis Crisostimo, and Juko Ishikawa surprised the crowd with a massive 357.5-lb marlin.

"We actually called it a day and we're heading back when we got the big strike. The reel kept going after it hit the lure and we could tell it was a marlin, but we're also worried that we might not make it back on time," Tenorio said.

"So the senator and my good friend Juko took turns winding it in as fast as they could. They did a great job and it only took about 15 minutes to get it on board," he added.

Behind *Luka and Ben* and *Madda Flyer* is *Bunita*, which sits in third place in the bluefish category with its 224-lb catch.

In other categories, *Marianas* caught a 31.40-lb wahoo, Guam' s *Emmanuel* had a 27.30-lb mahi-mahi, *Joker IV* reeled in a 16.85-lb skip jack and *Saint Patrick* went home with 18.45-lb yellow fin tuna.

Marianas' wahoo edged three

See LUKA on Page 26

Luka and Ben crew members pose with their 420-lb marlin caught in Day 1 of Saipan Fishermen's Association 27th International Fishing Tournament last Saturday at Smiling Cove Marina's weigh station.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO